FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 OCTOBER 1984

Lebanon

Howe Visit — Britain can participate in UNIFIL if asked to do so by the Lebanese Government, although "our participation in the field is not the only way to offer support," British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe stated in remarks reported by Beirut radio following his 28 October talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil in Bikfayya. Sir Geoffrey subsequently arrived in Israel, where he said he would discuss the problem of south Lebanon with his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir. In his arrival statement, which was broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Sir Geoffrey also denied that he is playing a mediation role.

Meanwhile, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Prime Minister Rashid Karami reaffirmed Lebanon's demand that negotiations with Israel must take place through the Armistice Committee, stating that "any talks through the military must be conducted on the basis of the armistice agreement." In Jerusalem, the Israeli Cabinet unanimously approved a "two-track" approach on Lebanon whereby Israel will continue to seek contacts with the Lebanese aimed at changing the UNIFIL mandate, while the United States will hold parallel negotiations with Syria, according to Jerusalem radio.

Internal Situation — In the wake of the Cabinet decision to control illegal ports, the government has authorized the Lebanese Army, Navy, and Air Force to bombard any ship violating this law, Beirut radio announced on 27 October. The ports regarded as legal are Beirut, Tripoli, Juniyah, Sidon, and Tyre, according to an official source cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. The Cabinet has also approved a security plan to control the situation at Beirut Airport and along the airport road, Prime Minister Karami disclosed in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio. However, the Druze and Shi'ite leaders, Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, criticized the government for failing to implement its policies, and Birri indicated that he may resign from the Cabinet, the radio noted.

Military Situation — Both the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio and the Voice of Lebanon reported further clashes between the Army and Junblatt's forces in the Al-Shuf area southeast of Beirut. A clandestine Radio Free Lebanon report that Israeli planes raided positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley on 28 October was not confirmed by monitored Israeli media. Earlier, the Voice of Lebanon cited reports that the Syrians had recently installed SAM-6 batteries in the area. Meanwhile, an IDF soldier was injured by a mine in the 'Ammiq area of eastern Lebanon, the IDF spokesman disclosed in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio.

Israel

One Arab was killed and eight others were injured in a rocket attack on a bus leaving Jerusalem along the Hebron road, Jerusalem radio reported on 28 October. A note found by the rocket launcher said the attack was in revenge for the recent murder of two Israeli students near Bayt Jala. The radio subsequently disclosed that the "Avengers" organization had claimed responsibility for the attack, warning in a written note that it will continue to strike Arab targets unless Jewish terror suspects are released immediately and unless capital punishment is reinstituted for terrorists. Police detained three Jews in connection with the attack but later released them, the radio noted. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and other ministers sharply condemned the attack, though the KAKH movement welcomed it as an act of revenge by "courageous" Jews, according to Jerusalem radio and television. As for the Palestinians, a PLO Executive Committee statement cited by radio Monte Carlo viewed the incident as part of a scheme of "mass terrorism" and warned that the PLO will not "remain silent" over such operations.

PLO

"The door has not yet been closed" on Algeria as a venue for the PNC session, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed, reporting on Palestinian leaders' talks in Tunis on 27 October. Earlier, PLO official Khalil al-Wazir stated in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo that the Algiers site had been agreed upon, pending a reply from Algeria. PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum also supported the Algiers location in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, but he stipulated that there should first be agreement based on a dialogue between "resistance factions and nationalistic figures." However, according to Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH*, a new PLO will be announced in Damascus in mid-November, to include the Fatah dissidents, Al-Sa'iqah, the Palestine Struggle Front, and the PFLP-General Command, and this will mean a "final split."

Terrorist Attack Warnings

A terrorist group, including Lebanese and Palestinians, is preparing a terrorist operation against a U.S. embassy in the Gulf region, according to "special security reports" cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. "Well-informed U.S. sources" in Paris likewise disclosed to Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* that the CIA has information of an impending "kamikaze" attack by a small aircraft against a U.S. target in the Middle East, possibly the U.S. ambassador's residence in Lebanon. *AL-QABAS* said its sources hinted that the CIA may take preemptive action against certain individuals believed to be responsible for this hostile activity.

Attack on UAE Envoy

A caller claiming to represent the "Arab Revolutionary Brigades" told AFP that his organization was responsible for the 26 October attack on the UAE vice consul in Rome. A young Jordanian confessed to the shooting, which wounded the diplomat and killed an Iranian woman accompanying him, AFP noted.

The security forces have uncovered a Libyan-backed plot to spread chaos and confusion in Sudan, the National Security Council announced in a statement carried by SUNA. Noting that the leader of the plot and his aides have been arrested, the statement said the conspiracy was disclosed to the authorities by some of the retired military men and workers who had been recruited by the plotters "on a racial basis." The plotters have confessed that they received Libyan financial assistance and promises of air support to back a "move" by Ethiopia.

Egypt

President Husni Hubarak left for a visit to France and the FRG, MENA announced on 29 October. Earlier, Mubarak received Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Aleksandr Belonogov, a meeting the ambassador termed "fruitful and important," the agency reported.

OPEC

OPEC oil ministers flew into Geneva for an emergency meeting in which, sources cited by KUNA predicted, it may be difficult to agree on parceling out lower production quotas since many OPEC countries can ill afford to lose oil revenues. Meanwhile, Iran's Oil Ministry insisted that the only way to strengthen the oil market and prevent a price collapse is for all OPEC members to cooperate in reducing oil production, Tehran radio reported. However, Nigerian Oil Minister David Tam-West stated that Nigeria does not intend to reduce its output and will not raise its oil prices unless world prices rise, according to AFP.

Iran

Foreign Relations — Iran should have diplomatic relations with all countries apart from the United States, Israel, and South Africa, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni stressed in a speech to Foreign Ministry officials reported by IRNA and Tehran radio. He criticized those who argue that Iran should have nothing to do with other governments, calling this view a "very crucial and dangerous mischief." Iran should maintain relations not only with [illegible] not [illegible] though it must be careful "not to be slapped in the face" by the latter, Khomeyni added.

Vatican Bomb — A bomb explosion damaged the residence of the Iranian ambassador to the Vatican on the night of 27 October, IRNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iranian Foreign Ministry official cited by IRNA rejected the "distorted" account by the international committee of the Red Cross of a recent riot by Iraqi POW's in a Gorgan camp and accused the ICRC of violating the Geneva Convention by publicizing the incident before a full investigation. Iran will permit the United Nations to investigate the incident if Iraq agrees to a similar investigation into the condition of its Iranian POW's, "thousands" of whom are "missing," the Iranian official stated. Giving Iran's version of the riot at the Gorgan camp, he claimed that a group of POW's had attacked the guards and other POW's, obliging the guards to use plastic bullets to disperse them. Three of the five POW's killed were hacked to death by the rioters, according to the official.

As for the military situation, both sides accused each other of violating the UN-sponsored moratorium on attacking civilian targets. An Iraqi communique cited by Baghdad radio said four Iraqi civilians were killed by shellfire on 27 October, while an Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that Iraq has committed over 80 violations of the moratorium since its inception in June, killing or wounding over 70 Iranians, Tehran radio reported.

DRA

Afghan authorities handed over captured French TV journalist Jacques Abouchar to the head of the French National Assembly on 27 October, BAKHTAR reported.

In a separate development, the DRA Foreign Ministry protested to Pakistan over a 24 October cross-border shelling incident, BAKHTAR disclosed.

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TAP: 'Arafat Returns to Tunis After Arab Tour

LD271815 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 27 Oct (TAP) — Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committe returned to Tunis from Amman at dawn, at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan, the last stage of an Arab tour which also took him to North Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq.

Palestinian Leaders Begin Meetings in Tunis

JN281719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Oct 84

[Text] Under Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Palestinian leadership began intensive contacts and talks with a number of national Palestinian functionaries and officials of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance's factions in Tunis yesterday. Our correspondent said that the talks focused on the need to convene the PNC before the end of November and make a final decision in this regard. Regarding the venue for the PNC, our correspondent has learned that the door has not yet been closed regarding Algiers. A responsible Palestinian source said in Tunis that Fatah spared no effort to hold a plenary PNC meeting with the participation of all Palestinian factions. The responsible source added that any further delay can no longer be tolerated, especially since delaying the convocation of the PNC poses a threat to the Palestine question.

Kuwaiti Paper: New PLO To Be Proclaimed in Damascus

GF281630 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 17 Oct 84 pp 1, 22

[Article by the Palestinian affairs correspondent]

[Text] A major event that will have a negative effect on Palestinian action will take place in mid-November: A new PLO organization will be announced. Its headquarters will be in Damascus and will include the Fatah dissidents (Abu Musa's group) [Sa'id Musa Muragha's], Al-Sa'iqah, the Palestinian Struggle Front, and the PFLP-GC. Palestinian sources assert that the announcement will be made following a general meeting of the dissident members of Fatah, estimated at 3,000.

In their meeting they are expected to adopt a resolution to oust Yasir 'Arafat — and that means that their dissident movement will keep the name Fatah. Although a decision to oust Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] by the dissidents' congress will not in practice affect 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO — whose headquarters is in Tunisia — the step will in political terms mean a final split in the PLO. All parties have thus far avoided such a split — as demonstrated by the continual efforts and contacts by various Palestinian, Arab, and international sides.

The emergence of a new PLO with its headquarters in Damascus could prompt 'Arafat to hasten to convene the PNC session with only those members willing to attend, particularly as Jordan has agreed to host the PNC session. Thus it is not unlikely that the PNC will convene (with Fatah, the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Arab Liberation Front attending) before the end of November — that is, a few days after the proclamation of a new PLO based in Damascus. Political observers do not rule out the possibility that in the next few weeks Jordan will become the target of multifaceted pressure from Syria. According to a neutral source such pressure may take the form of troop concentrations on the Syrian-Jordanian border.

An experienced Palestinian politician has asserted to *AL-SIYASAH* that 'Arafat is fully aware of all these dangers and pitfalls but that 'Arafat, who is saying that legal Palestinian institutions cannot continue to remain idle, is seeking to ensure that he will receive full support from the PLO Executive Committee on his decisions. The PLO Executive Committee, which derives its strength and legitimacy from the PNC, can no longer meet because of the aggravated differences among its members.

'Arafat had in fact ensured that a quorum of nine members will be present for a PLO Executive Committee meeting. However, the quorum was lost when a member of the PLO Executive Committee, Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, visited Damascus where the Syrians withdrew his passport so that he could not leave Syria.

'Arafat is seeking to confirm the legitimacy of his leadership of the PLO in view of the successive campaigns against him, the calls for his resignation, and the doubts cast on his impartiality and loyalty. Is 'Arafat's legality and leadership of the PLO in need of confirmation? The question was put to 'Arafat.

'Arafat had said in a brief interview that a leader of one of the Gulf countries had asked 'Arafat the question and then added: You have the legality; why then do you seek it? However, 'Arafat, who was surprised by the question, was unable to go back on his call for a PNC meeting for two reasons:

1. 'Arafat does not want it said that he, as PLO leader, is incapable of ensuring a Palestinian consensus, and consequently his calls and appeals are not being heeded by Palestinians, and thus his leadership is undermined in the eyes of Arab and international political circles.

2. The question whether the PNC will convene or not has become the only topic in the Palestinian arena, because this topic has confined all other issues and differences within the framework of a PNC meeting.

PNC Member Advocates Strong Egyptian-PLO Relations

NC281154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA) — PNC member Sa'id Kamal has stated that Egypt's responsibility toward the Palestinian people on the pan-Arab and international levels confirms the importance of establishing comprehensive political relations between Egypt and the Palestinian revolution leadership. This, he added, is bound to bolster the joint efforts for regaining the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost being their right to set up their national entity in light of international realities and the current balance of power, which have been defined in the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council regarding the Palestinian problem. Continuing, the Palestinian official said that these clear and frank relations, which are dictated by present circumstances, will contribute toward

enhancing the PLO position and will abort the attempts of all those sides attempting to weaken and divide the PLO through their narrow regional vision.

Palestinian Leaders Interviewed on PNC Session

Khalil al-Wazir Interview

JN262116 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1739 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal, carried by the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow"; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Antoine Nawfal] Contacts are being held to convene the PNC. Reports are contradictory regarding the venue for the council. Baghdad, Amman, Algiers, and maybe other names have been proposed. Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday that the PNC will convene next month whatever the obstacles may be. In your opinion, what are the most important obstacles, especially since you have participated in all the Palestinian meetings?

[Khalil al-Wazir] Following long months of discussing political issues, we have reached an agreement. The organizational issues which we also proposed were accepted by our brothers in the Democratic Alliance. We also discussed the issue of setting a date for convening the PNC. We said in the Algiers-Aden agreement that the PNC must convene no later than 15 September. There has always been the Syrian objection, Syrian attempts to hamper the PNC, and Syria's rejection of setting a date. Our reply was that we are ready for anything that would facilitate the convening of the PNC. Therefore, during the first meeting held in Algiers, we said that our Algerian and PDRY brothers can take a written paper from us and go to Damascus.

Actually, we have such a paper. We said that this paper would define our line and approach on a meeting between us and our brothers. No one can negotiate on the PLO's national course whether regarding the Reagan plan, the Camp David accords, or the clear national stand which we defined in that paper. We told our Algerian and PDRY brothers that if there is any ambiguity from our brothers in Syria, then this paper defines relations and explains that we are fully concerned about being together with our brothers in Syria, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and the Lebanese nationalist forces in the major trench of confronting the Zionist enemy.

We waited for a reply, However, when Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and later Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir went to Damascus, they returned empty-handed. The road was closed to them. There was a Syrian condition to the effect that 'Arafat must be toppled. Our immediate reply was: That does not concern them; it is a Palestinian issue which we discuss inside our institutions, and they have nothing to do with it. This condition constitutes the basic obstacle which we in the Palestinian arena considered as harming our national dignity before anything else. Can they allow us to interfere and ask: Why did you appoint this minister or that prime minister? Do we have the right to interfere in their domestic affairs? Of course not. Can President Chadli Benjedid allow anyone to tell him: I do not agree on your prime minister? Can President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad accept anyone telling him that he does not agree on your foreign minister?

What happened is a continuous hampering of our Palestinian institutions. No one can accept that. In whose interest are the attempts against the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and against its members' attendance at these meetings? The Syrian condition is that anyone who attends a meeting of any institution where 'Arafat is present cannot return to Syria. Despite all this, we have said that we are ready. We postponed the PNC meeting many times until we realized that the PNC must convene, because any further delay means a blow to the Palestinian question and the PLO and a distortion of its legitimacy in all arenas. Thus, we appealed to all sides to come to the PNC.

The door is open. We have no objection to anyone. We and the Democratic Alliance have said we have no objection to anyone's attending the PNC. The door is open even to those who carried weapons against their people in the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps and who are PNC members. They can come to the PNC, and no one can deprive them of this right unless a majority of the PNC adopts a decision against them.

Thus, the remaining issue is the date and venue. The date has been postponed more than once and must now be set. It has been decided that the PNC will convene no later than the end of November. The PNC must convene during that period in order to save the PLO and Palestinian action and its march. The question is: Will this matter create a rift within Palestinian ranks? The direct answer to this is no, because our people everywhere, in the occupied territories and elsewhere, know the PLO and its legitimacy well. Moreover, our people are aware of their duty in rallying around the PLO. All the petitions that arrive from our people in the occupied land prove that our people support the PLO and the legitimate national institutions, for the sake of which they offered many sacrifices. This is why we have said that a date must be set for the convocation of the PNC and this date must be no later than November, because any further delay means submission to the conspiracies against the PLO.

Regarding the venue, we have agreed on Algiers. So far, our Algerian brothers have only called for convening the PNC in Algiers on the condition that all sides must attend, especially the National Alliance. We will meet with our Algerian brothers soon, within the next few days. During this meeting, we will learn the reply of our Algerian brothers. If the reply is yes, the PNC will convene and that door is open to everyone. If there are special Algerian circumstances that would prevent the convocation of the PNC, then we will look for another venue. We have options. Amman and Baghdad and other venues are options. We are waiting for the Algerian reply. In light of this reply, we will decide. Our meeting in Tunis will decide the date and venue and they will be announced immediately.

[Nawfal] My last question, Abu Jihad: What are the effects of the Jordanian-Egyptian rapprochement in the Palestinian arena? Is it a factor that calls for unity or for fragmentation and splits?

[Al-Wazir] We have not expressed our stand toward this step in order to prevent confusion within Paelstinian ranks, especially since the PNC is ahead of us. It is the PNC's responsibility to adopt a decision on all these issues. All PNC members will be free to express their opinion on this step. As I have said, we have not given our opinion on this issue in order to prevent confusion within Palestinian ranks.

PNC's Al-Fahum Interview

JN262020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1804 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Interview with PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal, carried on weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Antoine Nawfal] The PNC is slated to convene soon in Algiers, Amman, or Baghdad. My first question is: In your capacity as PNC chairman, which capital would you choose?

[Khalid al-Fahum] Naturally, I would choose a capital on which effective PLO forces agree. By effective forces I mean the resistance factions and nationalist figures. I propose Algiers.

[Nawfal] But if Algiers becomes an impossibility, what is the alternative?

[Al-Fahum] Why should Algiers become an impossibility? If we answer this question, we will be able to answer your question. Algeria wants a nationalist council. It wants to host the PNC on a national Palestinian unity background. Algeria does not want a Palestinian split on Algerian territory. I support this view. I say that holding the PNC is not the point at issue. The issue is Palestine — our rights to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of independent Palestinian state. The PNC is a higher PLO apparatus. I support holding it on time, but on the basis of national unity. If the PNC is held against a divisive background, I will not support its convocation.

[Nawfal] According to PNC regulations, what are the necessary procedures to hold it?

[Al-Fahum] I prefer that our PNC be held on the basis of consensus, which necessitates comprehensive dialogue. Therefore, I believe the PNC session should be postponed for another short period so that we can hold a comprehensive dialogue to pave the way for comprehensive agreement.

[Nawfal] In your capacity as PNC chairman, are you prepared to propose an integrated plan to realize unity?

[Al-Fahum] I am working for a comprehensive dialogue. By this I mean a dialogue among the Fatah Central Committee, the four factions of the Democratic Alliance, the four factions of the National Alliance, and some Palestinian national figures. If we begin a comprehensive dialogue, I am sure we will reach a comprehensive agreement making it easier to hold the PNC. The place will not be important if we reach comprehensive agreement. I am proposing comprehensive dialogue for comprehensive agreement, and I am not pessimistic in this regard.

[Nawfal] You are proposing the participation of the Democratic and National Alliances, but there are vetoes by this or that side. How can you bring the sides together?

[Al-Fahum] In fact, vetoes and preconditions do exist. I am trying to overcome these obstacles so that a comprehensive dialogue can be held.

[Nawfal] There are reports a final decision will be made on holding the PNC soon. Have you received an invitation?

[Al-Fahum] I have received no invitation. I have not received any request for the PNC's convocation. I have not been informed of anything. All I hear is what is in the media.

[Nawfal] Can the emergency session be held without informing the PNC speaker and without his participation?

[Al-Fahum] No, he should be informed. The PNC should be called by the PLO Executive Committee or by one-quarter of the PNC members. The speaker is informed and he must respond within 1 week. If he does not respond, if the speaker does not call for a meeting within 1 week, the Executive Committee or one-quarter of the PNC members may issue the call for a PNC meeting.

[Nawfal] If the Executive Committee decides to hold PNC session in Amman and sends an invitation to you, will you attend?

[Al-Fahum] I am against attending a PNC that is held on divisive ground; I have warned against this. Our cause cannot tolerate any adventures. The 16th session's resolutions are binding on us. These resolutions answered all the questions: on our stand toward Camp David, our rejection of Camp David, our rejection of the Reagan plan, and our rejection of authorization or deputization, because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The 16th session answered questions on our relations with the Arab states, particularly with Syria, and described them as strategic. The resolutions of the 16th session still exist. No council session can contradict resolutions of previous sessions. The session can amend, generalize, and strengthen these resolutions but not contradict them. So, I cannot attend a session that would lead to a division in the Palestinian arena; I will not be held responsible for this. We can wait 1, 2, or 3 months until the beginning of next year and until we realize a comprehensive dialogue and agreement.

DFLP Official Interviewed

JN262000 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1758 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Interview with Abu Layla, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Palestinian Democratic Alliance, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal, carried on the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Nawfal] Abu Layla, attention centers on the possibility of convening the PNC. Yasir 'Arafat said in Amman yesterday that the PNC will be convened before the end of next month regardless of any obstacles. Will you in the Democratic Alliance participate in the council meeting if it is held in Algeria or anywhere else?

[Abu Layla] First of all, we in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] support convening the PNC session as soon as possible on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement. Within the Democratic Alliance, we are currently studying this issue, and a consensus in this regard will evolve in the coming days. This opinion will be discussed with the brothers in the Fatah Central Committee in Algiers in the next 2 days.

We believe that it is necessary to revive the PLO and activate its role. This is a pressing national need under the current difficult circumstances that our people face. We believe that convening the PNC in implementation of the Aden- Algiers agreement will rescue the organization from its current crisis.

We believe that it is possible to convene the PNC within a few weeks, and before the end of this year at any rate. Regarding the place, we still hope for and await a reply from the Algerian brothers on a final decision to convene the PNC in Algeria, as they had previously promised us. We are confident they will respond to this need. Brother President Chadli Benjedid had told the Democratic Alliance and Fatah Central Committee delegations in the presence of President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad during the 19 September meeting that Algeria would welcome the convening of the PNC there after exhausting all efforts to convince the other organizations to participate and after overcoming all the obstacles preventing his meeting. He expected this would be achieved within 2 months as of 19 September.

[Nawfal] What, in your opinion is the main obstacle that prevented the convening of the PNC session? Is it true that there is such a thing as a veto against individuals or against a certain individual?

[Abu Layla] The main obstacle until now has been the stand of the brothers in the National Alliance, who refuse to participate in a comprehensive national dialogue. They demand that Brother Yasir 'Arafat first be deposed from his position as chairman of the Executive Committee and that the Fatah Central Committee agree to the resolutions of the Central Council's 18-member committee which were announced in August 1983. These are their preconditions.

Our position in the Democratic Alliance is that we support an immediate comprehensive national dialogue without any preconditions because this is the only way of achieve a comprehensive national agreement as the basis for convening the PNC. However, setting preconditions actually means paralyzing the process of uniting the PLO.

[Nawfal] At the start of the conversation you told me you are holding a dialogue between the PFLP and the DFLP to achieve a unified stand. Are there any differences in opinion between the two fronts?

[Abu Layla] Naturally, there are bound to be differences of opinion regarding political and tactical issues within the framework of the Democratic Alliance on implementing the Aden-Algiers agreement and on the need to revive the PLO's institutions. The dialogue is centered on finding the best ways to achieving such objectives in a manner that preserves the PLO's unity and its principal forces.

[Nawfal] The latest reports said that if it becomes impossible to convene the PNC in Algiers it will be convened in Amman. Do you agree to this?

[Abu Layla] We are waiting, as I said a short while ago, for Algeria to define its final stand on this issue. We believe that the place for convening the council should be determined through an agreement between the signatories to the Aden-Algiers agreement. Despite this, we still do not believe that the door has been completely closed in the face of the first and preferable option, which is the Algiers option.

Monte Carlo: DFLP Delegation Meets USSR's Brutents

JN271113 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has informed us that a DFLP delegation composed of Nayif Hawatimah and DFLP Political Bureau member Salah Ra'fat met yesterday with Deputy Chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department Karen Brutents. During the talks, the two sides agreed on the need to and importance of immediately and equitably overcome the current Palestinian differences and extricating the PLO from its state of paralysis and fragmentation. The two sides also stressed the need to work seriously in order to safeguard the PLO's unity, independence, and national course, which is hostile to imperialism and Zionism on the basis of a firm and complete commitment to the 16th PNC resolutions and the Aden-Algiers agreement.

The two sides expressed their rejection and condemnation of the attempts to split the PLO. The DFLP statement added that pressure was exerted to solve internal Palestinian problems through democratic dialogue within the legitimate Palestinian institutions. The Palestinian side and the USSR stressed the importance of the unity of Arab national forces, especially Syria and the PLO, on the road to confronting the U.S.-Israeli Arab reactionary plans which seek to peddle separate capitulatory settlements.

APS: DFLP'S Hawatimah Arrives in Algiers 27 Oct

LD281157 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Algiers, 28 Oct (APS) — Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the DFLP, arrived in Algiers yesterday afternoon.

PFLP-GC Dissension Reported in Al-Baddawi Camp

NC270941 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] According to special reports, there is dissension inside the PFLP-GC in Al-Baddawi camp in Tripoli. The dissension is led by Abu Mamduh [not further identified] who said that he has joined 'Arafat.

PFLP Raps Arab 'Reactionary' Moves in Region

JN281514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 28 Oct (SANA) — The PFLP has asserted that it will not allow the PNC to be used as a bridge for 'Arafat to join U.S. settlements and plans. This came in an editorial in the magazine *AL-HADAF*, the PFLP'S organ, to be published tomorrow, Monday. The magazine notes that the PFLP will not submit to blackmail and will not accept a policy that paralyzes, fragments, divides, and destroys the PLO.

In its editorial, *AL-HADAF* reviews the Arab reactionary moves and contacts of the past week. These moves and contacts are represented by the visit to Cairo by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan to implement a joint strategy to solve Palestinian problems — a strategy that had been agreed to during recent talks in Amman between Husayn and Mubarak; Prince Hasan's meetings with Husni Mubarak, his prime minister, and a number of officials in the Egyptian regime; and the statements by Prince Hasan during his visit to Cairo in which he said that the next stage will witness a big development in the relations between the two regimes.

AL-HADAF notes that Saddam reopened the USIS office in Baghdad after it was closed in 1958 by the revolution which toppled the royal regime. *AL-HADAF* asserts that this is a preparatory move to officially restore political and diplomatic relations with Washington.

AL-HADAF states that these successive developments should reinforce the relationship among the Arab reactionary alliance parties and between this alliance and Washington. These developments are also meant to prepare all the necessary elements to begin negotiations with the Zionist entity on the basis of the Reagan plan and the Camp David accords after the U.S. presidential elections.

PLO Executive Committee on 28 Oct Bus Attack

JN282028 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] In the wake of the operation which took place in Jerusalem this afternoon when a rocket was fired at a bus carrying Arab passengers, causing the death of one and the wounding at least two others, the PLO Executive Committee issued a statement this evening. The committee considers the incident a continuation of the scheme of mass terrorism and said that it will not fulfill its objectives. The statement added: This operation will urge our people to be more steadfast and more determined to confront terrorism. The PLO Executive Committee statement said that the PLO reaffirms it will not remain silent over such operations.

PLO Denies Theft of Palestinian Funds in Gaza

JN290832 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-RA'Y* — The PLO yesterday denied that funds belonging to Palestinian establishments in Gaza are being systematically stolen. A PLO spokesman in Amman has said that the PLO, which is proud of its establishments and working cadres in all fields, particularly in the field of bolstering the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland, categorically denies that these funds are being stolen.

OPEC Fund Director Warns of Dwindling Resources

LD270913 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct (KUNA) — In a press statement published here today, Yusuf 'Abdallah, the director general of the OPEC Fund for International Development, has stated that the future does not seem bright in regard to the OPEC fund's resources because of the hard times through which the oil market in the world is passing. In an interview published in the newspaper *AL-WATAN* today, Yusuf 'Abdallah said: "Within the next year or 2, we will find ourselves obliged to reduce the volume of our activities and projects."

He added that in the case of a shortage in the funds needed for the OPEC fund "we might have to concentrate on small projects instead of the big projects so as to be able to reach the largest number of poor countries, as well as on the vital and important projects such as those pertaining to food, health, and education." He added that the fund is meeting with some financial difficulties on the part of some countries such as Iraq and Iran because of the Iraq-Iran war. He pointed out that Iran should have been the second after Saudi Arabia in regard to the volume of financing. But now Venezuela occupies second place followed by Kuwait.

Referring to the financing problems of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Yusuf 'Abdallah said, "The fund members were taken by surprise by the allegations of the American delegation that financing should be on a ratio of 42 to 58 percent between the OPEC member countries and the industrialized countries. The U.S. delegation insisted that there was a previous agreement on this and that this agreement has been endorsed by the U.S. Congress, and consequently the U.S. Government must adhere to it."

Yusuf 'Abdallah added that these claims have no legal basis and are not based on any written documents. Furthermore, he said, this ratio will mean that every rich industrialized country will be paying on average $23 million, while OPEC developing countries will be paying $27 million. "Though they are richer," he said, "they want to be the smaller contributor to the fund and this is unacceptable to us." The International Fund for Agricultural Development held a meeting in Paris last week.

Energy Ministers on Stabilizing Oil Market Prices

LD272057 Kuwait KUNA in English 1659 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct 27 (KUNA) — Oil ministers from OPEC countries flew into Geneva Saturday for their crucial emergency meeting designed to shore up official prices by cutting production. A further indication that the 13-member organisation will seek to lower temporarily its ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day by a moderate amount was given by Indonesia's mines and energy minister.

Dr Subroto told newsmen on arrival at the Geneva hotel where Monday's conference is to be held that he believed the market could be stabilized by a moderate cut of possible less than two million b/d. "My feeling is that a return to equilibrium by a moderate cut is sufficient," Dr Subroto said. He suggested a cut of between 1 million and 1.5 million b/d below the OPEC ceiling could be made until the end of the year, with OPEC's pricing structure remaining as it is.

Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, who has led the attempt to defend OPEC prices and get the support of non-OPEC producers to stop a price war, has said demand for OPEC oil will rise to 19 million b/d next month and higher in December. Saudi Arabia, the largest producer, is prepared to shoulder a substantial cut in its own output, with the remainder of the reduction in output by OPEC shared out among other members. Ecuadoran sources said Saturday the Saudi cutback could be one million b/d.

OPEC's overall reduction, taking account of increased demand because of the winter in the northern hemisphere, might be around 1.5 million b/d, Yamani suggested after his talks in Oslo Friday with Norwegian authorities.

Both Mexico and Egypt, outside OPEC but attending the Geneva conference as observers, are prepared to cut their production to support OPEC and help reduce the world oil glut. Norway, after triggering the fall in prices with its cut of 1.50 dollars a barrel for its North Sea oil earlier this month, is hoping to raise its price before the end of the year, according to the Norwegian Energy Ministry. However, the Norwegian oil and energy minister, Kaare Kristiansen, said after Friday's talks with Yamani that no promises had been given to OPEC.

Nigeria's Oil Minister Tam David-West arrived here Saturday. OPEC will be looking for solidarity from the major African producer after it followed Norway and Britain and lowered its price with a deeper cut of two dollars a barrel.

Yamani, who outlined OPEC's plans to Nigeria during his visit to Lagos with the Venezuelan and Mexican energy ministers, has predicted Nigeria will definitely go back to its official price in the near future.

The Geneva emergency meeting may find it difficult to reach agreement on sharing out lower production quotas, sources said, since many OPEC members can ill afford to lose oil revenues because of debt or other problems such as the Iran-Iraq war. The conference is also due to re-examine price differentials, where the difference between the price charged for heavy crude and light — about three dollars — is considered to be too wide. The overvalued price of light crude is one reason that has pushed exporters towards offering discounts.

A lowering of the differential for light oils would make it easier for Nigeria to compete against North Sea oil, which is of a similar grade, sources added. OPEC's market monitoring committee, led by the UAE with Indonesia, Venezuela, and Algeria, is due to meet here Sunday. It may work on the production plan first drawn up last week in Geneva by six OPEC ministers and Mexico and Egypt, sources said. Latest figures from Britain show that Britain's North Sea oil output has been 12 percent higher than the record production level of last year. The figures confirm OPEC's argument that increased production by non-OPEC countries, particularly North Sea oil, has been a major reason for the downward pressure on prices.

Nigerian Minister: Price, Output To Stay Same

NC281032 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, Oct 28 (AFP) — Nigeria does not intend to raise the prices of its oil unless world prices rise, nor will it reduce output, Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West said here today ahead of a special OPEC ministerial meeting beginning tomorrow. Recalling that the current crisis was sparked by price cuts by Norway and Britain, before Nigerian cut its price by two dollars a barrel, Mr David-West said that Nigeria was not the first to reduce prices.

But commenting on the oil market, he said: "It is not a static situation, it is a dynamic one. We'll assess the market situation and will decide in the best interests of Nigeria." In this context he indicated that Nigeria would increase its official prices only if the prices charged for North Sea oil were also increased. "We can't give any deadline", he added.

The OPEC meeting tomorrow is expected to discuss how to cut overall output and share the sacrifice among some members, but Mr David-West said: "Asking Nigeria to cut production even by one barrel a day... it is suicidal."

UAE Committed to Present Oil Prices

GF281500 Doha QNA in Arabic 1117 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 28 Oct (QNA) — Petroleum sources in Abu Dhabi have emphasized the importance of the OPEC consultative conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva on 29 October to discuss the situation in the world oil market in light of the decision by Norway, Britain, and Nigeria to reduce their oil prices.

The sources said that OPEC will make efforts to preserve the present price structure of $29 per barrel of light Arabian crude in return for reducing production and discussing the possibility of narrowing the gap between the prices of light and heavy crude oil, and thus spare OPEC an oil war that will have a negative long-term effect, not only on OPEC countries but also on the world economy as a whole.

The sources have reaffirmed to the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi the UAE's commitment to OPEC's decision and continuing — together with other OPEC-member countries — to defend the present oil prices, and to agree on a unified stand on the present situation.

Iraqi Oil Minister: Oil Crisis 'Exaggerated'

JN281739 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Geneva, 28 Oct (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has stated that Iraq and the other OPEC countries will work to restore stability to the world market in the interest of OPEC countries, other oil-producing countries, and consumers. In a statement to INA on his arrival here to participate in the consultative OPEC ministerial conference to begin here tomorrow, Taqi said that the recent oil market crisis, caused by the decision adopted by Norway and the United Kingdom to reduce prices, is exaggerated.

He added: Had the price reduction been carried out in June for example, it could be somewhat justified, but the announcement of the price reductions this season, which usually witnesses an increase in the demand for oil, is meant to weaken OPEC or at least is a hasty decision, which cannot be justified. He said that Iraq urges OPEC to adopt a decision on the reduction of OPEC's production ceiling to safeguard price structure.

On whether OPEC will ask Iraq to partially share in the reduction, the Iraqi minister said: Iraq's current oil production quota within OPEC is far less than it should have been if many factors are to be taken into account such as Iraq's production capacity, its large oil reserves, and its financial needs. He said that Iraq has only recently reached the quota alloted to it by OPEC, as Iraq had for a long period in the past produced less than its quota which made other countries benefit.

The Iraqi oil minister called on OPEC countries to reduce their production, stressing that the financial situation and capabilities of these countries allow them to reduce their production for a limited period as expectations show that demand for oil will improve next month. Concluding, he said that this measure would be viewed as a sacrifice by these countries, would restore stability to the oil market, and would benefit all.

Iranian Oil Minister on Stabilizing Market

LD281557 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA — Indonesian minister of mining and energy said Sunday that recent cuts in the price of oil were politically motivated, while his Iranian counterpart expressed regret that OPEC had not followed Iran's proposals earlier. The two sides met in Geneva on Sunday in preparation for a full ministerial conference of OPEC members.

Indonesia's Minister of Energy Dr Subroto expressed his government's belief that the cut in British and Norwegian oil prices was a political move. He hoped that a decrease in OPEC production, by three million barrels per day, will improve the market.

Iranian Oil Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi said decreased production for stabilizing the oil market should have been adopted at the London conference last March. He said today's decision was proposed by the Islamic Republic in the last conference but it was blocked. He expressed the hope that "unity and serious efforts" will thwart the superpower plots.

Meanwhile reports indicate that OPEC's likely decision to cut production and the usual increased oil demand in winter months will improve the market.

GULF AFFAIRS

Qatari Minister Addresses GCC Ministers

LD271428 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 27, SPA — Posts, telegraphs and telephones ministers of the six-nation GCC began their second meeting here today. The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Welcoming the participants, the meeting's chairman Qatari Transportation and Communications Minister 'Abdallah ibn Nasir al-Suwaydi stressed its importance to develop postal, telegraph and telephone services in the Council's member states. The Qatari minister said the meeting was aimed at setting their communications services on the threshold of a new era that will be marked by the modernisation of systems and transfer of technology. He expressed full confidence that the meeting will help in boosting cooperation between the six nations in this field and wished it every success.

After Al-Suwaydi's address the ministers went into a closed door session to discuss issues on the agenda which include the unification of postal, telephone and telgraphic services' tarifff. The two-day meeting's agenda also include discussion on coordination between member states in the field of communications and the transfer of the permanent panel on communications into a GCC body with its premises in Bahrain.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Pakistani Military Official

GF281502 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 28 Oct (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today Lieutenant General Tariq Kamal Khan, chief of staff of the Pakistani Navy, who is currently visiting Manama. The meeting was attended by Staff Colonel Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, assistant chief of staff for operations of the Bahrain Defense Force; and Mohammad Efzal Qadir, Pakistani ambassador to Bahrain.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

GF270630 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Manama, 27 Oct (WAKH) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived in Manama today from Seoul on a short visit to Bahrain. In a statement on his arrival, Mzali said that he will hold talks with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them in various fields and issues of mutual interest. He said he will also exchange views on current Arab and international developments. He asserted that cooperation between Bahrain and Tunisia is proceeding on the right path and serves the interests of the two countries.

and gave the Tunisian delegation the opportunity to strengthen relations between Tunisia and these countries.

The Tunisian prime minister was received on arrival by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Bahraini minister of finance and national economy, and Burhan Bin Ashour, the Tunisian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

Departs for Kuwait 27 Oct

GF270814 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Oct (WAKH) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali left Manama for Kuwait today following a short visit to Bahrain. During his visit the Tunisian prime minister held talks with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Amir Comments on GCC, Iraq-Iran War

GF281806 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] His Highness the Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has affirmed that the establishment of the GCC has achieved a great Gulf dream and represents a strong force in the Arab and international arenas. His highness hailed the cooperation among the GCC states and said this cooperation has become a concrete fact that crystalized the bonds of fraternity and understanding among the brothers.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper *'UKAZ* published today, his highness the amir also stressed the importance of holding the GCC summit next month. He said that the objective of holding such meeting by the leaders of the GCC countries is to endeavor to achieve Gulf unity. His highness hailed the military cooperation among the GCC states and said the Peninsula Shield II excercises which were conducted in Saudi Arabia recently have proved the importance of military cooperation among all the countries of the region and have shown the military efficiency of the GCC countries qualified to defend the region. His Highness the amir pointed out that concentration on military matters, especially defensive matters, in the future, is considered to be a natural response to the needs of the region in light of the escalation of tension and conflicts. His highness said that we are required to achieve the maximum level of security and stability for the Gulf citizen so that he can live a tranquil life in his great Gulf nation.

Regarding the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks his highness said that it is important for the Arab League to maintain all its members and to remain united.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, his highness expressed regret at the recent escalation of the war and called on the two warring parties to realize the threat to the security of the region and the world. His highness said that the Gulf countries have done their best to stop this bloodshed between the two Muslim countries.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS: 'Suicide' Attack on U.S. Facility Expected

GF271446 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 26 Oct 84 p 16

["Exclusive" from Paris]

[Text] Well-informed U.S. sources disclosed to *AL-QABAS* that the CIA warned the Reagan administration in a special report prepared and submitted to the White House several days ago of a suicide operation that would be executed by a small aircraft against an important U.S. target in one of the Middle East countries. The source explained that the CIA received information from various parties in the region, including Israeli intelligence, saying that elements opposing U.S. policy are preparing to attack one of the U.S. embassies or the house of one of the U.S. ambassadors in the region following the style of the Japanese pilots who used to crash their planes into American warships during the World War II; they were called kamikaze pilots.

The CIA mentioned in its report that Lebanon is the most likely place where such a suicide operation could take place, and that the residence of the U.S. ambassador was the likely target. However, the CIA did not rule out the possibility that such an operation could be executed in any of the other Mideastern countries. The U.S. source said that the Reagan administration expects such operations to be executed before 6 November, U.S. election day. However, it is highly possible that such operations could be carried out on election day or the day after in an attempt to humiliate Reagan and overshadow the news of his success. It was not a coincidence, then, that Robert McFarlane, White House adviser on national security, yesterday stressed, while answering a question about new threats the U.S. authorities have received recently, that these threats are more serious and it is feared that they could be translated into action in forthcoming days.

AL-QABAS also learned from informed U.S. sources that contrary to what the official sources say, the CIA has a list of several Arab personalities accused of supporting these anti-U.S. activities. When *AL-QABAS* asked this U.S. source whether the Reagan administration is preparing for retaliatory operations against those suspected of being responsible for this activity, the source disclosed that several Arab parties advised the U.S. Administration not to carry out any retaliatory action, whereas Israel encouraged U.S. officials to perform such an operation.

The U.S. source admitted that the problem facing the Reagan administration is that it does not have sufficient information on the party manipulating these actions against U.S. interests, although it has a list of names of some of the personalities accused of doing so. Therefore, its retaliatory action may stir strong reactions in the region. The source hinted that the CIA may carry out liquidation or assassination operations against certain individuals who Washington believes are responsible for this hostile activity. The U.S. source also said that the Reagan administration now moves in three directions to combat this hostile trend:

1. Collecting the greatest possible amount of information on the motivators of these operations;
2. Adopting maximum security measures in order to confront such operations and to protect U.S. targets;
3. Keeping contact with a number of states and organizations in the area and with Western and East European countries to contain this activity and eliminate its effects on the United States.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

LD271007 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0846 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct (KUNA) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived here today from Bahrain for talks with Kuwaiti officials. Present at the airport to welcome Mzali were Prime Minister and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; and other ministers and officials.

Mzali is scheduled to meet today with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir. The Tunisian-Kuwaiti talks will start at Al-Salam Palace later today and will deal with cooperation between the two countries in various fields as well as the present situation concerning Arab states. Several meetings between ministers and officials from both sides will be held.

Talks Begin; Deputy Premier Comments

LD271217 Kuwait KUNA in English 1049 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 27 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti-Tunisian official talks headed Saturday afternoon by H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Tunisian Premier Mohamed Mzali covered bilateral ties and particularly economic cooperation, Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said. Shaykh Sabah told KUNA that the two sides exchanged views on several topics including the Iran-Iraq war and current efforts to put an end to that conflict. Kuwait's chief diplomat added that the talks also focused on current Arab contacts to convene the next Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Riyadh next month, in addition to reviewing all aspects of the Middle East problem.

Premier Discusses Arab Issues

GF271130 Doha QNA in Arabic 0722 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Doha, 27 Oct (QNA) — Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has expressed satisfaction with the tangible, positive developments in Qatari-Tunisian relations and lauded the strong fraternal relations between Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, between senior officials of the two countries, and between the Qatari and Tunisian peoples.

In an interview with the Qatari paper *AL-RAYAH* published today, Mzali said that the close cooperation between Qatar and Tunisia has been embodied in a number of important bilateral agreements that can serve as an example for relations between two Arab countries. He said that the Tunisian and Qatari sides are seeking to strengthen and expand cooperation in order to

consolidate the economic, social, and cultural integration between the two countries.

Mzali expressed great regret at the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, despite all attempts and initiatives to end the war. He said: "It is not right that all these human and financial resources are wasted in a war with no foreseeable end in sight. These resources should instead be employed in the development of the two warring countries and consequently in strengthening a section of the Arab and Muslim nation."

Referring to Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, the Tunisian prime minister said that the decision to suspend Egypt was made at the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad and therefore a decision on whether Egypt should be allowed to return or not is a decision that has to be made at a summit conference.

Asked about reports on tension in Tunisian-Palestinian relations in the past months, Mzali said that such reports are merely tendentious rumors circulated in some quarters to harm Tunisia's reputation and weaken the Palestinian question. He said: Tunisia's relations with the brothers in the PLO led by Yasir 'Arafat are excellent, firm, and based on mutual confidence and have never been marred by any cause.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mzali said Tunisia's relations with Libya are "good." He declared: We are working to strengthen these relations in various fields to achieve further rapprochement and cooperation between the two countries.

Premier Departs Following Stopover

LD271502 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct (KUNA) — The Tunisian prime minister, Mohamed Mzali, left here at about 1500 today at the end of his 4-hour visit to Kuwait. Mzali, who stopped in Kuwait en route home from an official visit to Korea and the PRC, held talks with the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, on the Iraq-Iran war, and the efforts being exerted to hold an Arab summit conference, in addition to the Middle East question.

Lebanon's Barri Arrives in Kuwait, Makes Statement

LD290052 Kuwait KUNA in English 1945 GMT 28 Oct 84

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 28 (KUNA) — Lebanese State Minister for the South Affairs and Reconstruction [title as received] Nabih Barri arrived here Sunday night from Beirut on a few day official visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Barri, on arrival statement, said that "Lebanon has no place except between his people and tribe." "Lebanon will go back to the Arabs," he added. This principle was the secret behind the resistance of the Lebanese people against the "May agreement with Israel," he elaborated. The minister also ruled out eruption of battles in Lebanon after the forthcoming American election to be held on November 6th.

Barri told journalists that his visit "expresses confession and appreciation to Kuwait's favors made to Lebanon during the ordeal and black nights of Lebanon," adding, "we are now at recovering stage, we must remember the friendly countries who shareJ with the Lebanese people their ordeal." [sentence as received]

Commenting on reports on American pressure to prevent Israeli withdrawal from the south, Barri affirmed that he was informed that American contacts had taken place on this issue. He also asserted that there were few Israeli withdrawals hoping it may be a partial or complete withdrawal. [sentence as received]

Barri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, announced as well that there are European moves for the sake of ensuring Israeli withdrawal from the south. He expressed believe that Europe would move in that direction before the American election as well as before the U.S. green light. [sentence as received]

Barri denied being informed that leader of the Socialist Progressive Party Walid Junblat had threatened to resign from Karami's government. Moreover, Barri, who will also visit Algeria, said that he will discuss this issue after his return, with the leaders of the national and Islamic movements in Beirut on the possibility of continuing Karami's government rule. "We cannot accept the existence of the government in one valley and the people of the south in another," he noted.

Reacting to the clashes which took place recently in the Palestinian camps, Barri said, "This is not the first incident nor the last. However, it will not affect relations of Amal Movement and the Palestinians." Speaking on illegal ports, Barri noted that a step has been taken regarding the fifth port, but did not elaborate. Barri added, "What we want is a just legitimacy for all Lebanese people without any influence."

The visiting Lebanese minister is to hold talks with Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir dealing with latest development in Lebanon as well as the current contacts in connection with Israeli withdrawal from the south in addition to other issues of common concern. He will also meet with H.H. the amir Tuesday.

Barri was received by Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Khalifah al-Khalifah and Acting Director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry Hamad al-'Ubaydi.

No Entry Permits To Be Issued in November

GF281208 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Oct (WAKH) — Major General Yusuf Badr al-Kharafi, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, has announced that no entry permits into Kuwait will be issued in November due to the convocation of the fifth GCC summit conference.

In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today, Maj Gen al-Kharafi said that there are some exceptions on entry into Kuwait. These exceptions are limited to permiting entry of those who represent companies and establishments that have direct relations with state projects, those who have previous visit permits, and those who have residence visas valid during this period.

Commenting on the work of the Supreme Security Committee which was formed by Kuwait on the occasion of the convocation of the summit conference, he said that this committee includes representatives from the Interior Ministry, the Army, and the National Guard, and that it meets continuously in order to coordinate security plans which will be implemented during the convocation of the summit conference.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Calls for Arab Realism, Praises Egypt

GF260920 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah has praised Egyptian stands on Arab issues.

In an interview published in Paris today by *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah said that Egypt supported the Palestinian issue throughout all the phases of Arab history and made more sacrifices than any other Arab state. The minister of state for foreign affairs added: Oman supports any effort to resolve the Middle East issue by peaceful means. From this premise Oman supported the Camp David accords to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah called on the Arab states to adopt a modern way of thinking and abandon the old mentality. He said: The time has come for the Arabs to think with their minds and not their hearts. They must not live by the victories of their ancestors but must achieve their own victories.

Saudi Ships Arrive, Hold Joint Exercises

GF261343 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Within the framework of military cooperation among the armed forces of the GCC countries, four vessels which belong to the fraternal Saudi Royal Navy arrived today at Qabus Port in Matrah on a visit to the Sultanate under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rawafi. During this visit, these vessels will hold joint naval exercises in association with the Sultanate naval forces, lasting several days.

SAUDI ARABIA

Reportage on U.S. Under Secretary's Visit

Meets Foreign Minister

LD282041 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1649 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Oct (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today met with Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary for political affairs, who arrived in the Kingdom earlier today. The meeting was attended by Richard Murphy, U.S. under secretary for Middle East affairs; Ma'mun Qabbani, head of the Western office at the Saudi Foreign Ministry; and Walter Cutler, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Received by King

LD282117 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this evening received Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary for political affairs, and Richard Murphy the U.S. under secretary for Middle East affairs. The meeting was attended by His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; the head of the Western office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Walter Cutler, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Ethiopian Information Minister Arrives for Talks

GF270818 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir met today with Ethiopian Information and National Guidance Minister Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, who arrived in Saudi Arabia earlier today, and with the Ethiopian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The two ministers discussed many issues of interest to the two countries. During the meeting the Ethiopian minister conveyed his country's greetings to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his government. The Ethiopian minister toured Jeddah today and expressed his pleasure at what he saw in the way of modern construction and the great achievements accomplished by Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Departs for Damascus

LD271527 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Oct (SPA) — The Ethiopian minister of information, Felleke Gedle-Giorgis left Jeddah this afternoon for Damascus at the end of his visit to the Kingdom during which he met with the Saudi information minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir. He was seen off at the airport by the director of foreign information in the Western region, 'Izzatufti, and a number of officials.

Turkish Commerce Minister Meets With Counterpart

GF281620 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman al-Sulayyim met today with Cahit Aral, Turkish minister of commerce and industry [title as heard]. The Saudi commerce minister told SPA after the meeting that they discussed relations between the Kingdom and Turkey and means of developing and bolstering them. He said the Turkish minister expressed the wish of his country to import Saudi petrochemical products. Dr al-Sulayyim said the meeting also touched on the situation of the Turkish companies operating in the Kingdom. He said that the Kingdom is supporting and encouraging the Turkish companies.

Arab League Secretary General Arrives in Riyadh

LD272354 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Oct — Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom that will last for several days. He was welcomed on arrival by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and a number of officials. Klibi told SPA on arrival that his visit to the Kingdom is within the framework of consultation and cooperation between the Arab League and the Kingdom, particularly in the current delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing — a matter that calls for clear Arab stands toward all the important issues in the Arab arena. Klibi said that he will hold talks with a number of officials in the Kingdom dealing with a number of current Arab issues, particularly because the Kingdom has a prominent place in the Arab family of nations and a positive role in supporting Arab action.

Mitterrand Preparing New Mideast Initiative

GF271336 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Oct (QNA) — The Saudi weekly *AL-MAJALLAH*, in its 27 October issue, reports that French President Francois Mitterrand is preparing a new diplomatic initiative for the Middle East. The initiative will be announced after President Mitterrand's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who is scheduled to visit Paris on 5 December. Citing French diplomatic sources, *AL-MAJALLAH* says that French-U.S. contacts are taking place to pave the way for the new French plan. *AL-MAJALLAH* adds that French circles believe the Mitterrand-Peres meeting will be decisive for the French plan in view of the special relationship between the two.

AL-MAJALLAH also reports that France has informed the Soviet Union of its reservations regarding the proposal to convene an international conference to solve the Middle East problem with the United States, the Soviet Union, and the area countries attending. The magazine says that Elysee sources have informed the Soviet Foreign Ministry that they believe that such a conference should be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and some nonaligned countries, such as Yugoslavia and India, as well as the Middle East parties concerned.

Qatar, UAE Troops Conclude Exercises, Depart

LD262116 Riyadh SPA in English 1910 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, Oct 26, SPA — Military troops from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates left here today for home after taking part in the joint exercises of the six-nation GCC armed forces, code named Peninsule Shield II maneuvers held in the Saudi Arabian desert recently. The exercises were the second phase of similar maneuvers held by the forces in the United Arab Emirates' desert last year at the instructions of the GCC leaders to promote cooperation and coordination between their forces. The exercises were concluded last Tuesday under the auspices of Saudi Deputy Defence and Aviation Minister Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The exercises included land drills and air attacks using live ammunition.

UAE

President Departs on Private Visit to FRG

GF281118 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Oct (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left Abu Dhabi for the FRG today on several days' private visit. He was seen off by members of the UAE Supreme Council, shaykhs, ministers, and senior state officials.

President To Visit Libya in November

GF281456 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Oct (QNA) — The newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, which was published in Al-Shariqah today, said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will make an official visit to the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah during the first week of November in response to an invitation from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

'Ali Mahmud Marya, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in the UAE, stated that the Libyan Government has decided to close the brotherhood office in Abu Dhabi at the beginning of next month. In a statement to the newspaper *AL-BAYAN*, which was published in Dubayy today, he said that this measure comes within the context of the austerity plan pursued by the Libyan Government according to which it has decided to close 23 embassies and offices in Arab and foreign countries. Marya said that a nonresident office will take care of Libyan interests in the UAE and will supervise the Libyan students who study at the Arab Academy for Marine Transport in Al-Shariqah. *AL-BAYAN* added that the brotherhood office in Saudi Arabia, which is the only office Libya will maintain in the region, is the office that will take care of Libyan interests in the region.

Italian Envoy Regrets Attack on UAE Diplomat

GF271114 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah met Luca Daniels Biolato, the Italian ambassador to the UAE, who expressed his government's regret at the attack on Muhammad Sultan al-Suwaydi, the UAE vice consul in Italy.

Rashid 'Abdallah asked the Italian ambassador to convey to his government the UAE request to make further efforts to find out the motives for the incident. The minister conveyed to the Italian ambassador the request that the necessary security precautions be taken to safeguard the safety of the staff of the UAE Embassy in Rome.

In a statement to WAM, a Foreign Ministry official said that the condition of Muhammad Sultan al-Suwaydi is reassuring and is improving and he will be leaving the hospital soon. He said that the Foreign Ministry is in contact with the UAE Embassy in Rome and has enquired about his health.

Units Return From Saudi Military Exercises

GF261608 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1402 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH) — The first group of UAE forces which took part in the Peninsula Shield II maneuvers held recently in Hafr al-Batin area in Saudi Arabia returned to Abu Dhabi this morning.

AL-BAYAN on Oil Production, Market Needs

GF260910 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Dubayy, 26 Oct (WAM) — In its editorial today *AL-BAYAN* called on OPEC members to link their oil production with the real needs of the oil market and said that only such a measure can ensure the return of stability to the market and to oil prices.

AL-BAYAN said that the present crisis is a result of the imbalance in oil production which caused a great surplus brought about by the advanced industrial countries and their giant monopolist companies on the pretext of building up a strategic reserve. The industrial countries then pumped back this strategic reserve — which rose to 4 billion barrels — into the market in order to create an oil glut that would put pressure on OPEC to reduce prices, the paper asserted.

AL-BAYAN said that the crisis would not have occurred if production was in line with the real needs of the market. The glut in the market has prompted the great industrial countries and their monopolist companies to exert pressure on OPEC oil prices and production in order to bring about differences among OPEC membersthat lead to chaos in production and competition in prices. OPEC countries would thus fall into the claws of the international monopolies which know no mercy.

In conclusion *AL-BAYAN* emphasized that the matter is in OPEC's hands and that linking production with the market's real needs is the way to ward off the evils of the monopolies and preserve petroleum's value and prices.

PDRY

Indian President Arrives for Official Visit

GF271313 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Zail Singh, the president of the Republic of India, arrived in Aden today on an official 3-day visit to the PDRY. The Indian president was accorded an official and popular welcome at the Aden airport. He was received by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Political Bureau and the YSP Central Committee; ministers; leaders of mass organizations; members of diplomatic missions in Aden; David Christopher Manners, the Indian ambassador to the PDRY; and members of the Indian community.

Delhi on Talks With Chairman

BK280552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] India and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen have decided to enlarge areas of cooperation in economic and technical fields. They have also agreed on several joint ventures. The decision was taken at the official level talks between President Zail Singh and the President of South Yemen, Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, at Aden yesterday. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim; and the secretary in the ministry of external affairs, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, assisted the president during the talks. The dialogue will be resumed today.

During the talks, President Zail Singh and President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani voiced their concern over the continued Iran-Iraq war and urged them to end the conflict. The South Yemen president thanked Mrs Gandhi in particular for her efforts as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement to end the conflict. Both leaders agreed that India and South Yemen have identical views on all the issues discussed at the New Delhi nonaligned summit.

All India Radio correspondent Sebastian Robert, accompanying the president, reports that the two leaders underlined the need for immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab land. They said there can be no lasting peace in West Asia without resolving the Palestinian problem. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani described Zail Singh's visit to Aden as a significant turn in India-South Yemen relations. Earlier, on arrival in Aden on a 3-day visit to South Yemen, Zail Singh said the relationship between the two countries goes deep into history. He said his visit is aimed at further strengthening the relations.

Ministers Hold Official Talks

GF281940 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Talks between the PDRY and Indian sides were held at the Foreign Ministry today. The PDRY side was led by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; the Indian side was led by A.A. Rahim, minister of state for external affairs.

The two sides reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and the development of these relations. The two sides also reviewed the Middle East situation, developments in the Palestinian question, Israeli occupation of Arab territories including southern Lebanon, the situation in the Indian Ocean, the importance of holding an international conference on the Indian Ocean, the situation in the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia, the international situation in general, and the importance of strengthening the role of the nonaligned movement. The meeting between the two sides was characterized by an atmosphere of amity, a spirit of friendship, and a convergence of views on most of the issues discussed.

Chairman Receives Palestinian National Alliance Group

GF281820 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received the delegation from the Palestinian National Alliance, which includes brother 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation War [Al-Sa'iqah]; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; and Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, in addition to Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Qadri, some of the leaders of the Palestinian National Alliance.

During the meeting Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad welcomed the delegation of the Palestinian National alliance to the PDRY. The talks held fall within the efforts that are being exerted by the PDRY toward all the Palestinian revolution factions to amass the struggle energies and capabilities of the Palestinian people and to reinforce the confrontation of the conspiratory challenges and the capitulatory plans that are designed to liquidate the just Palestinian issue. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reiterated the importance of preserving the unity of the PLO on the bases of its national line — which is opposed to imperialism and Zionism — and the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, which constitutes the main condition for confronting all the aggressive plans and plots hostile to the Palestinian people.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad referred to the need to reinforce the struggle relations among Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese National Movement. He stressed that the PDRY will continue to exert its efforts in this direction based on its faith in the importance of the unity of the Arab national liberation struggle.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also expressed his satisfaction for the mushrooming developments in the struggle relations between the Yemeni and the Palestinian revolutions. He reaffirmed the constant and principled position of the PDRY alongside the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership — the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — in order attain their legitimate rights of returning to their homeland, to determine their own fate, and to build their independent state.

National Alliance Group Departs

GF281506 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The delegation from the Palestinian National Alliance left Aden today. It included Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation War [Al-Sa'iqah]; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; and Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, in addition to Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Qadri.

During its visit, which lasted several days, the delegation met with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and held talks with the party leadership on the most recent Arab and Palestinian developments. The delegation was seen off by Brother Salih Nasir al-Din, YSP Political Bureau member and head of National Security Committee, and a number of officials of the YSP Secretariat.

Council of Ministers Approves Treaty With DPRK

GF231528 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a periodic meeting today under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The council reviewed the friendship and cooperation treaty which has been signed with the DPRK and approved it pending ratification by the Supreme People's Council.

YAR

President Receives New U.S. Ambassador

GF282020 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpts] A ceremony was held at the presidential palace this morning to mark the presentation of credentials of William Arthur Rugh as U.S. ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the YAR to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Ambassador Rugh expressed his happiness to present his credentials to the brother leader president and referred to the close ties between the two countries. He said that the United States respects and supports the basic right of the YAR people to security and independence. He referred to the cooperation between the two countries in economic, artistic, and cultural fields. He praised the efforts of our country in the search for oil and mineral resources and the steps toward development made under the leadership of the Brother Leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Ambassador Rugh affirmed his intention to make efforts toward the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries.

Then Brother Leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih welcomed Ambassador Rugh and said: Your appointment to this high-level post is in response to the mutual desire to further develop relations between the two countries. He added: The YAR is a country with a history replete with cultural achievements in spite of the suffering, oppression, and isolation to which it was subjected at different times. Our victorious revolution of 26 September 1962 has been able to overcome these impediments and to provide a broad scope for our people to make important achievements, both in the realm of economic, social, and cultural development and the consolidation of the principles of democracy, and in the sphere of foreign policy which is based on human values deeply ingrained in the hearts of our people, the principles and provisions of the UN Charter, and the principles and aims of the Nonaligned Movement.

The president emphasized that the cause of the Palestinian Arabs is our principal national [qawmiyah] cause for we are part of the Arab nation. Our people will not hesitate to make any sacrifices to achieve a just and lasting solution to this cause. The president added: Therefore, we reiterate our firm belief that a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian cause can be achieved only by a complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and by safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

In conclusion, Brother Leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: We look forward to the time when the United States develops a stand whereby it can play a more even-handed and effective role to end the continuing Israeli aggression against the Arab countries and enable the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their inalienable and legitimate rights. He added: The desire of your country, as expressed in your speech, to forge a closer friendship with our country is perfectly compatible with the desire of the government and people of the YAR to create wide horizons for cooperation between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and fruitful cooperation, and in light of the policy of nonalignment to which our country adheres in word and in deed.

Soviet Ambassador Reviews Meeting With Mubarak

NC281048 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Soviet ambassador in Cairo Aleksandr Belonogov at Al-'Urubah Palace this morning. In a statement after the 1-hour meeting, the Soviet ambassador said that his meeting with the president was fruitful and important. He described the talks conducted during the meeting as friendly and constructive, adding that the talks dealt with Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Answering a question, the Soviet ambassador said that the Soviet stand on convening an international peace conference on the Middle East was not discussed during the meeting; however, he added, the Soviet stand on this conference has not changed. Belonogov affirmed that the Soviet Union has supported and continues to support, the solution of the Middle East problem by united efforts through the convening of an international peace conference.

Answering a question on Egyptian-Soviet relations, the Soviet ambassador said that they are developing successfully, adding that future prospects are very bright.

Mubarak Departs for Visit to France, FRG

NC290629 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Paris this morning on a 2-day visit to France on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to the FRG. President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation made up of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs.

Al-Majid on France, FRG Visits

NC271715 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Oct 84

["Dialogue With an Official" program, with guest Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid interviewed by an unidentified reporter; date and place of interview not given — recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] It has been decided that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit France and the FRG. To discuss the scope of this visit and the talks that the president will have in those two countries, we are pleased to have Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the program. Let us begin with France, Minister 'Abd al-Majid.

[Al-Majid] Naturally, the visit will be a good opportunity to bolster Egyptian-French relations. It will certainly strengthen these relations, in view of the close personal relationship between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Mitterrand and the depth of French-Egyptian bonds. Our relations are growing continually in various political, economic, cultural, and scientific fields. We will certainly review various aspects of our relations during the visit and will seek to further promote and strengthen them.

[Reporter] We now move to the president's visit to West Germany. What are the most important subjects to be discussed?

[Al-Majid] The president received an invitation from the FRG president. The visit will be an opportunity to strengthen the relations between our two states. The talks will deal with political, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural issues. In fact, both France and Germany have high priority in Egypt's foreign relations. This is reflected in the volume of projects being implemented by those two states. In regard to Germany, large engineering projects are underway in which the German Government is participating with the provision of credit, loans, and grants. The talks will also deal with Germany's contribution to our power projects.

[Reporter] As you said, the talks will not be confined to political aspects but will include other things, as well?

[Al-Majid] They will involve economic, technical, and cultural issues. Our attention will certainly be focused on these aspects. God willing, the visit's importance and its contribution to the promotion of our relations will be demonstrated in time.

[Reporter] What is your view of the EC's role in supporting the peace process and in arriving at a settlement of Middle East issues?

[Al-Majid] We have asked the EC to help turn the wheel of peace, which requires constant and continuous effort. The EC is currently chaired by Ireland. It will be succeeded by Italy on 1 January. The visit to Egypt by some Italian officials, and my visit to Rome, provided an opportunity to discuss this subject. In November, Egypt will receive Italian Prime Minister Craxi. This visit will also provide us an opportunity to seek Italian assistance in persuading the EC to move closer to peace.

[Reporter] France and Germany are among the EC members?

[Al-Majid] Naturally; this is an important front, led by Italy, France, and Germany. The president's visit to France and Germany will take place soon.

[Reporter] We thank Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Ghali on Integration, Current International Issues

NC281144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Oct (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declared that there is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese policy regarding the achievement of peace in the Middle East as well as regarding U.S. and international relations. In an interview published today by the Sudanese newspaper *AL-AYYAM*, Dr Ghali said that Egypt and Sudan strongly support Arab rights. The two countries believe that the starting point toward achieving comprehensive peace in the next stage should begin with solving all aspects of the Palestinian problem. He added that Egypt and Sudan adhere to peace as a firm strategy for attaining a just settlement of the Middle East and Palestinian problems and for supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Touching on the African issues, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt and Sudan believe that a strong OAU can solve Africa's problems. Therefore, Dr Ghali added, the OAU should be supported to enable it to settle all problems. He said that Egypt and Sudan oppose intervention in the issues of Chad and the Western Sahara. They support Chadian legitimacy and all efforts being made to attain reconciliation, resolve the crisis on the basis of national unity, and liberate Chadian territories occupied by foreign forces.

Dr Ghali said that coordinating diplomatic activities between Egypt and Sudan is not only confined to bilateral relations, but goes beyond that to include international and regional organizations.

Dr Ghali reiterated the importance of integration in the sphere of pan-Arab security, demonstrated in the mine-clearing operations following explosions in the Red Sea. He said constant efforts are being made to urge international and regional organizations to give technical assistance to and participate in economic projects in Egypt and Sudan. He pointed out that the EEC member states are contributing $400 million to the Jonglei Canal project.

Nile Valley Conference Issues Final Statement

NC281325 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA) — The first Constitutent Conference of the Nile Valley's Popular Organizations has issued its final statement, requesting the Arabs to discard their differences to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, chairman of the conference and speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly, read the statement at the conference's final session. He expressed joy over Jordanian King Husayn's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt and hopes the Arab states will follow Jordan's example.

The statement deals with current conditions in Lebanon, calls for continuing the dialogue among various parties to ensure the unity of Lebanon's people and its territorial integrity, and demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The final session was attended by Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, speaker of the Consultative Council and alternate chairman of the conference; Sayyid Zaki, general rapporteur of the conference; and Abu Bakr 'Uthman, secretary general of the Supreme Council for Integration.

The final statement declares that the Nile valley's people support and back the PLO in its capacity as the sole representative of the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their land. The statement urges Palestinian leaders to discard their differences and unite their ranks. The statement faithfully expresses the need to liberate the occupied territory, especially Jerusalem. It also expresses faith in Egypt's legitimate right to regain Tabah.

On the international level, the statement demands the preservation of the nonaligned policy and the consolidation of cooperation among the states pursuing this policy. It also demands the building of a sound international economy to prevent the collapse of the world's economy.

The final statement condemns the various types of interference in Africa and the conflict among the major powers. It also demands that action be taken to bolster the OAU. It declares support for the Namibian people in their defense of freedom and of their right to determine their fate.

The statement condemns the racist repressive measures in South Africa. It says that the Nile valley's people declare to the world their concern for safeguarding the safety of the Red Sea so that it may remain a lake of peace serving the whole world without being affected by international currents and conflicts. The conference demands that the Red Sea littoral states participate in preparing a security strategy.

The statement stresses the eagerness and insistence of the Nile valley's people to proceed along the path of the wise unionist action and mobilize all human and material resources under the command of leaders Mubarak and Numayri to find an integrated formula for the integration action.

Nile Valley Parliament Sends Delegation to Amman

NC271836 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA) — A Nile Valley Parliamentary delegation led by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly and the Nile Valley Parliament, left Cairo for Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan to last until 31 October. Dr al-Mahjub said that during the visit he will convey a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan. He will also meet with the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies speaker and the Senate speaker to express thanks to them for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan.

The Nile Valley parliamentary delegation includes Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Dr Kamil Laylah, Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, as well as Ibrahim al-Sharbini, secretary general of the Nile Valley Parliament. It also includes five members of the Sudanese Parliament — Joseph Tombrah, Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, Muhammad Sulayman, Jalal Lutfi, and Hasan Nil.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for OPEC Talks in Geneva

NC280826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA) — 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, left Cairo for Geneva this morning on a 2-day visit, during which he will attend the OPEC meetings. In a predeparture statement, the Egyptian minister said: We will coordinate with OPEC to safeguard Egypt's interests as well as those of the oil producing countries.

Trade Minister on Oil, Economic Issues

NC281406 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a delegation of U.S. and Egyptian businessmen this morning. Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Minister al-Sa'id said that the meeting is within the framework of the desire to emphasize the importance of the private sector regarding investment in Egypt. He said that during the meeting obstacles to the flow of U.S. investment in Egypt and ways of overcoming these obstacles were discussed. He further said that the opportunity is now favorable for further U.S. investment in Egypt.

In response to a question about Saudi Oil Minister Zaki Yamani's statement about Egypt's agreement to reduce its oil production, Dr Al-Sa'id said: I have no information on this issue; such an issue was not submitted to the Higher Committee for Policies or the Cabinet for discussion.

He said: That Egypt's oil exports do not represent a major volume compared with world exports and, consequently, I do not believe that a reduction of Egypt's oil exports will decisively affect the international oil market. We are waiting for the return of the Egyptian petroleum minister from Geneva to be briefed on the various points of views.

Asked about reports in foreign papers regarding a decrease in Egypt's hard currency assets, Dr al-Sa'id said: We can refer to figures. A look at the various assets and recent imports of various commodities for the private or public sectors affirms that opening import credits are proceeding normally and that this month's level is higher than the same time last year by at least 4 percent.

Abu Ghazalah on Exercises, Cooperation With UK

NC271439 Cairo MENA in English 1345 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Alexandria, Oct 27 (MENA) — Egyptian and United States naval forces will conduct joint exercises in the Mediterranean between November 5 and 7, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said here today. The "Sea Winds" exercises will involve U.S. Sixth Fleet units, including aircraft carriers, destroyers and torpedo boats, as well as Egyptian naval formations in cooperation with the Air and Air Defence Forces.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the exercises will consist of an air and sea attack on Egypt, to be mounted by 17 U.S. naval units, in addition to F-14 and F-15 planes, which will take off from aboard American aircraft carriers. Egyptian Navy, Air and Air Defence Forces will repulse the attack, Marshal Abu Ghazalah said.

For the first time in Egypt, American-made "AWACS," airborne early warning and control systems, will take part in the exercises, guiding fighters and air defences and automatically carrying out control operations. Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that the benefits of such exercises for the Egyptian Armed Forces would be invaluable.

On another topic, Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that the visit of British Secretary of State for Defence Michael Heseltine to Egypt, which ended yesterday, was not intended to reach agreements on arms purchases, but merely to discuss military cooperation between Egypt and Britain and ways of overcoming any obstacles to such cooperation.

The visit, he added, was also designed to discuss the Mideast situation in all its entirety. He said Egypt did not submit any specific arms lists to the British side.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that a British military loan to Egypt was still being discussed and that views were being exchanged on terms and conditions.

The Egyptian defence minister said that he would visit the United States following next month's presidential elections, in order to pursue the issue of American military aid to Egypt.

President's Message on Solidarity With Namibia

JN271428 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA — President Saddam Husayn has reiterated Iraq's firm support to the Namibian people's struggle for independence, dignity and freedom.

In a message addressed today to the U.N. Council on Namibia on the occasion of the solidarity week with the Namibian people, President Husayn stressed that Namibia's independence and freedom would serve mankind at large.

The president pointed out that Iraq, which has been fighting a defensive war for more than four years against the expansionism of the Iranian regime, denounced the aggressive acts by the racist regimes of South Africa and occupied Palestine.

The policies of racial discrimination, racial segregation and Zionism had failed to achieve their aims, because such policies constitute a grave danger to mankind, the president added.

Drawing attention to the dangers resulting from collaboration among the world's racist regimes, particularly between those of Tel Aviv and Pretoria, President Husayn said that military collaboration between these two regimes threatened not only Africa and the Arab region, but world peace and security as a whole.

In conclusion, President Husayn called for a firm world backing to the just struggle of Namibia and the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership.

General Command Issues Battle Communiques

Iranians Attacked Near Basra

JN261705 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,631 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With the power of the truth and their glorious history, the proud Iraqis continue to tighten the siege around the defeated Khomeyniite clique by dealing it painful, destructive blows on land, at sea, and in the air. They will teach the dying charlatan that great Iraq of the two Al-Qadisiyah battles will not be conquered so long as there are determined Iraqi men who are true to their pledge to their people, nation, and leader.

The results for last night and today were as follows:

1. Using all types of weapons, our forward units continue to pound frustrated enemy forces east of Basra, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They killed six enemy soldiers and destroyed three observation posts, two emplacements for heavy machine guns, one infantry position, and one vehicle.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the central sector. Our units killed two, wounded others, and destroyed two emplacements for medium machine guns, one observation post, one heavy machine gun, and one hardware stockpile.

3. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions and vehicles in the northern sector, destroying two infantry positions and one mortar. Those manning the mortar were killed. Our forces also hit two vehicles, killing or wounding their occupants.

4. One infantry position was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 October 1984

120 Iranian Dead Confirmed

JN271813 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,632 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high morale and firm resolution based on justice and principles, the glorious Iraqis continue to bravely defend the dear homeland from the designs of the greedy and suspect. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force from one of our brave forward units confronted a group of enemy men that tried to approach its forward positions in the central operational sector. Our valiant fighters succeeded in killing one member of the hostile group, capturing another, and forcing the rest to flee. In another place in the same sector, three enemy men were killed and several others were wounded. In addition to what was mentioned in our previous communiques, it has been confirmed that enemy losses before one of our brave formations on 21 and 22 October were 120 dead. Furthermore, one tank, three armored personnel carriers, eight vehicles, three 106-mm guns, three arms caches, and one heavy machine gun were destroyed.

2. Our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and personnel concentration points in the operational sector east of Basra, destroying two infantry positions and killing their occupants.

3. Two arms caches were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. One mortar and one personnel concentration point were destroyed and all occupants were killed in the northern operational sector.

5. While our brave soldiers are fighting the remnants of the Iranian regime in the battlefields as real men, the Iranian regime resorts to cowardly methods. At 1530 today, it shelled a residential area in (Juwartah) District with heavy artillery. This savage hostile shelling resulted in the martyrdom of four civilians, including a woman, and the wounding of three other women and one man. Several houses were destroyed.

This ugly crime is added to the series of crimes that have been committed by the Iranian regime against mankind. It is a clear violation of the agreement reached under the UN auspices regarding the ban on shelling civilian areas. Our heroic Armed Forces will mete out on these criminals the Iraqi people's fair punishment at the appropriate time.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 Oct 1984

Artillery Deals 'Intensive Blows'

JN281724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Communique No 1,633 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 October 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With a high preparedness and a resolute determination, the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces stand in the battlefield to continue striking the forces of the suspect and rancorous enemy. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and for today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and military hardware in the central sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing three, wounding many, and destroying two vehicles, one motorcycle, and one hardware stockpile.

2. Our artillery dealt several severe and intensive blows to selected enemy targets opposite our positions in the operational sector east of Basra, killing or wounding many, destroying one enemy observation post whose occupants were killed, one excavator, and one hardware stockpile, and setting other targets in the same sector on fire.

3. One of our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield sighted an enemy troop concentration which tried to approach its forward positions, pounded it with artillery, killing or wounding several, while the rest fled. In another area of the same sector, our units pounded enemy positions and weapon emplacements with all types of weapons, destroying two infantry positions whose occupants were killed, and one mortar.

4. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 October 1984

Red Cross Official Describes POW Deaths

GF261315 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] An International Red Cross Organization official has reported in Geneva yesterday that Iranian soldiers killed or wounded tens of Iraqi POW's at a detention camp in Iran this month October. The official, John (Jaquire), said that three Swiss who work for the International Red Cross committee sighted Iranian guards firing indiscriminately at the Iraqi POW's in the Gorgan camp 80 kilometers from the Soviet borders.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman had warned that Iraq would not stand idly by regarding this perfidious crime, which he termed as having been repeated more than once in the past.

UN Investigation Demanded

JN261640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] United Nations, 26 Oct (INA) — Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's permanent UN representative, today sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general conveying the Iraqi Government's demand for an investigation into the Iranian authorities' assault on Iraqi POW's in the Gorgan camp on 10 October.

In his memorandum, Al-Qaysi referred to the letter that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to the United Nations demanding that a UN mission be sent to Iran to investigate the crime. Tariq 'Aziz' letter, as well as Al-Qaysi's memorandum, were considered official documents at the Security Council.

Romanian Delegation Arrives in Baghdad

JN280948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA) — Ion Stoian, Romanian deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, arrived here today heading a delegation on an official 4-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit Ion Stoian will participate in meetings of the Iraqi-Romanian joint committee for economic and technical cooperation which begin here tomorrow, Monday.

Mauritanian Minister Arrives for Joint Meetings

JN280946 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0826 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA) — Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, Mauritanian minister of fisheries and maritime economy and member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, arrived in Baghdad last night leading a delegation on a weeklong visit to Iraq.

He will head the Mauritanian side in meetings of the Iraqi-Mauritanian joint committee for economic, technical, trade, and cultural cooperation which begin today.

Cooperation Meeting Begins

JN281430 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA) — The third Iraqi- Mauritanian session for economic, trade, cultural, and technical cooperation began here today. The Iraqi delegation to the meeting is headed by Muhammad Fadl Husayn, minister of housing and reconstruction. The Mauritanian delegation is headed by Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, Mauritanian minister of fisheries and maritime economy and member of the military committee for national salvation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, as well as geological surveys. They reviewed Iraq's participation in the implementation of several development projects in Mauritania. They also discussed opportunities that are available for training Mauritanian technical cadres in Iraqi institutions.

During the meeting which was attended by representatives of competent Iraqi and Mauritanian institutions, it was decided to form two committees; the first will be entrusted with the study of cooperation programs in economy, trade, and development, while the second committee will discuss technical, cultural, and information cooperation.

Industry Minister, Delegation Return From Rabat

JN280942 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA) — Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin and the accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad today after participating in the sixth session of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources which recently concluded its meetings in Rabat.

Transport Minister Leaves for Algeria

JN290945 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA) — Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim left Baghdad for Algiers today on a 4-day visit. He is leading an Iraqi delegation to attend Algeria's celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution, scheduled to begin there the day after tomorrow, Wednesday.

Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Emergency Meeting

JN280836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left Baghdad for Geneva last night, leading a delegation to participate in OPEC's emergency meeting due to begin there tomorrow. The minister told INA that the OPEC ministers will discuss the effects the Norwegian and British decisions to lower North Sea oil prices will have on the OPEC countries and the consequences of Nigeria's decision to lower its oil prices.

The delegation includes the president of the general corporation for oil marketing as one of its members.

AL-THAWRAH Raps Cuts in Oil Prices, Urges Unity

JN290732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0643 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* says that the reduction of oil prices by Britain, Norway, and Nigeria confirms the imperialist monopolists' continued plotting against OPEC and against the world peoples' interests. In a commentary today on the occasion of the current emergency OPEC ministerial conference in Geneva, the paper adds that the stand adopted by these countries jeopardizes OPEC's unity and the collective pricing structure. It calls on the countries participating in the conference to bolster cooperation between OPEC and other oil-producing countries and stabilize the world oil market.

Concluding, the paper says that OPEC's unity, all parties' abidance by the organization's resolutions on production and prices, and coordination with non-OPEC oil-producing countries are effective weapons to overcome obstacles.

'Arafat Continues Official Visit Tied to PNC

Holds News Conference

JN261630 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat says that a solution to the Palestine question will not take place without a unified Arab stand, because this is the basic condition for achieving any real and effective progress in this direction. 'Arafat pointed out new spheres of joint Arab action which began to appear in the Arab arena recently.

At a news conference held at his residence in the guest palace this afternoon, 'Arafat said that his talks with His Majesty King Husayn focused on the current Arab situation, the situation in the Palestinian arena, the circumstances surrounding the convocation of the PNC, and the developing relations between the PLO and Jordan. 'Arafat said that the PNC issue will be clarified within the next few days when the time and venue for the PNC will be set.

Concluding his news conference, 'Arafat reviewed the PLO's relations with the USSR and France, and Arab and international initiatives to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question.

Confers With Husayn, 'Ubaydat

JN261722 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1615 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman yesterday evening. Our correspondent said they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, the current Arab situation, Jordanian- Palestinian relations, and ways of reinforcing these relations. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Shawkat Mahmud, and Secretary General of the Royal Hashemite Court Raja'i al-Dajani.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also met Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat yesterday. They discussed developing bilateral relations and what our people inside the occupied homeland are being subjected to. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories affairs.

Meets PNC Members; Issues Statement

JN261816 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1615 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar met with more than 40 PNC members and Palestinian dignitaries in Amman yesterday evening. Our correspondent said that Abu 'Ammar explained to the Palestinian dignitaries the intricacies surrounding the convening of the PNC since the first call for convening it was made in January and in the intervening 9 months.

Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the PNC will be convened by the end of November regardless of the number of attendees. It is unacceptable for Palestinian institutions to remain paralyzed — a situation that will adversely affect the Palestinian issue. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The problem frankly is not with Ahmad Jibril or George Habash but with the Syrian regime, which is vetoing the PNC session. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: George Habash retreated from the Aden-Algiers agreement after it was signed. This prevented the convening of the sessions on 27 September.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that it is his duty in his capacity as PLO Executive Committee chairman to invite all members to attend the council sessions regardless of their stand on the Palestinian people and their leadership. He added that the dialogue between the Palestinian sides will not stop in view of the need for Palestinian national unity and for preventing our just cause from retreating.

Abu 'Ammar said that he hoped that tomorrow's meeting in Tunis between representatives of the Palestinian factions will succeed and that a final agreement will be reached on convening the PNC session. He said: We will not bow to Syrian pressure. He explained the Palestinian leadership's silence as resulting not from weakness but in order to allow the numerous mediations to settle the Syrian-Palestinian differences.

Abu 'Ammar noted the heroic operations of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men in occupied southern Lebanon. He said that 75 percent of these operations are carried out by Palestinian fighters.

Abu 'Ammar's statements were followed by discussions and debate between the conferees and Brother Abu 'Ammar, after which the conferees issued the following declaration:

1. Convening the 17th PNC is a national need which must be satisfied.

2. Supporting the content of the statement issued on the expanded meeting in Tunis, which included a large number of PNC members and Palestinian functionaries and popular federations, and during which all PNC members were urged to attend the 17th PNC session when they are invited to do so.

3. Appealing to signitories of the Aden-Algiers agreement to appreciate their responsibilities during their forthcoming meeting in Tunis and to endeavor to acheive the Palestinian people's objectives and wishes in convening the 17th PNC in accordance with the Aden-Algiers agreement.

4. Appealing to all Palestinian sides to respond to the call for national unity regardless of the price and to preserve their Palestinian national affiliation.

[Dated] Amman, 25 October 1984

Further Reportage
JN271027 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 84 pp 1, 24

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Arab state of weightlessness in the global arena is a state of pain through which the Arabs and Palestinians are passing. He said: It would be a mistake to believe that we can obtain anything on the political and military levels toward solving our cause without a unified Arab stand. At a news conference he held at the guest palace yesterday, 'Arafat added that a united Arab stand is a basic condition for achieving real and effective progress in the service of the Palestine cause and of all Arab issues, including the Gulf war.

Regarding what has been reported on an anticipated U.S. initiative which the USSR might consider, Yasir 'Arafat said: No initiatives have been presented to date. We will give our opinion when such an initiative is presented, when I become acquainted with the Soviet friends' opinion of it, and after the Palestinian leadership studies it. Yasir 'Arafat said that the relations between the PLO and the USSR are excellent. He said that the relations between the PLO and the USSR are excellent. He said: We are proud of our relations with the Soviets. These relations were clearly represented in the USSR's concern for the PLO's unity and in their rejection of any attempt to undermine this unity. He added: We believed and still believe that Soviet participation in solving the Middle East problem constitutes an important guarantee for the Palestinians in any political move toward a solution.

'Arafat noted that the Palestinian-French contacts are continuing on many levels, and that a number of Palestinian officials frequently meet with French officials in order to win the French stand over to the side of our just cause.

'Arafat refused to name the Arab country which he said participated with Israel in an attempt to assassinate him. He said: I will announce its name, and show documents, at an Arab summit.

'Arafat said: The PLO is the difficult number in the Middle East equation. Twenty-eight months after Lebanon's battle and Beirut's siege, which was approved by Reagan and carried out by Begin by pushing three-fourths of the Israeli Army into Lebanon, we are still the difficult number. This can only be solved by recognizing the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights to self-determination and by establishing their independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

Yasir 'Arafat said: The situation calls for reviewing calculations, because U.S. envoy Murphy's agreement to solve the problem between Israel and Syria concerning southern Lebanon comes 28 months after the fact. In Murphy's six-point agreement, the following two points are related to the PLO:

1. Guaranteeing that the PLO fighters not return to southern Lebanon.

2. Securing Palestine's northern border against the Palestinian fedayeen's attacks.

Yasir 'Arafat added: I believe that Murphy's deal shows that the PLO remains the difficult number in the equation.

When asked if the mediation between the PLO and Syria has reached a deadlock, Yasir 'Arafat said: We did not and will not stop mediation, because the Palestinian leadership made a decision that binds us to continue work in order to correct Palestinian-Syrian relations. In view of this decision, we accepted all mediation, and we are still ready to welcome any mediation that would lead to positive results.

Answering a question on whether Tehran's invitation to host the PNC is a violation of the PLO's constitution, which stipulates that the PNC should be held in Jerusalem or in any other Arab capital, Abu 'Ammar said: Tehran's invitation has ended and the Iranians have rescinded it. The Iranians escalated the situation at the military front with Iraq. Our hope was that their invitation would be an opportunity to stop the Iraq-Iran war.

When asked about some political circles' opinion that holding the PNC in Amman and Baghdad might deepen differences with Syria, Abu 'Ammar said: He who says this must offer us another venue, and must not create pressure in order to prevent the PNC from convening in other venues.

Jordan Willing To Host PNC
JN261302 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that he will continue contacts with the various Palestinian organizations in his attempt to reach an agreement on the convocation of the PNC. However, he said that there is little hope of reaching an agreement on this subject.

Speaking during the meeting he held in Amman last night with PNC members residing in Jordan, 'Arafat explained that in any case, the PNC will meet next month regardless of the number of members who will attend. 'Arafat pointed out that King Husayn recently assured him that Jordan is prepared to host the next PNC session if it becomes impossible to hold it elsewhere. 'Arafat said that the leaders of the Democratic Alliance, which comprises the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party will meet in Tunis on 27 and 28 October to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. According to 'Arafat, the main problem is Syria's veto on the convocation of the council.

'Arafat Reviews Visit, Departs
JN262124 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, and senior Jordanian officials.

In a statement at Amman airport, 'Arafat said he discussed with His Majesty King Husayn the issue of convening the PNC, the circumstances and difficulties facing its convening, what our people in the occupied territories are being subjected to in terms of institutionalized terrorism, and efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. He said: Our viewpoints agreed that the challenges facing the Arab nation demand further Arab solidarity to enable us to confront these challenges.

He was seen off by Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories affairs, and the director of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was seen off also by Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief; Executive Committee members Hamid abu Sittah, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and Dr Hanna Nasir; 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, the PLO Executive Committee representative; the commander of the Palestine liberation army in Jordan, and a number of senior officials.

Offer To Host PNC Lauded

JN270738 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 27 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On holding the PNC, *AL-DUSTUR* says: At PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's news conference in Amman yesterday, the Arab situation, fragmentation, and differences occupied an important part of 'Arafat's statement. He believes that this [Arab] nation is in a state of weightlessness. What attracts one's attention in 'Arafat's statement is the bitterness which was clear while he was answering the questions about convening the PNC. The date and venue of the PNC meeting will be set during the next 2 days, at the expected Palestinian meetings in Tunis and Algiers.

AL-DUSTUR adds: We must point out here Jordan's welcome to host the next PNC session. Jordan's stand is a new assertion, not only because of our developing relations with the PLO, but also because this call is a positive contribution toward solving the problem of the venue for the PNC session. It seems that the large Arab territory is too small to host that session. This situation made some Palestinian leaders think of holding the PNC on the deck of a ship. Jordan's welcome proves its pan-Arab authenticity and sincere affiliation. Holding the PNC in Amman —if the Palestinian leadership decides to do so — will be in harmony with the fact that Jordan is a shelter for all Arabs and a natural Palestinian home, and the fact that the fatal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people are the best ground for the national Palestinian will to reinforce its independence and protect its freedom and independent national decisionmaking.

AL-DUSTUR concludes: Thus, Jordan's welcome to hold the PNC in Amman is a correct interpretation of Jordan's pan-Arab policy, a practical application of its Arab mission, and a genuine expression of real life in its territory. This situation makes us proud of this stand, and fills us with hope that the Arab nation will bypass the current fragmentation and march toward a better Arab and Palestinian future.

Nile Valley Parliament Delegation Arrives

JN280710 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] A Nile Valley Parliament delegation led by Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub arrived in Amman yesterday evening on an official 5-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, the prime minister, the Senate president, and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

In a statement to the PETRA-JNA, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub said that he carries a personal message from His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn. He added that Presidents Mubarak and Numayri had welcomed the idea of the delegation's visit. He said that the delegation which represents the Nile Valley Parliament carries the greetings and appreciation of the Nile valley peoples to the Jordanian leadership, government, and people.

He said that the Nile valley people highly value His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab move in restoring political and diplomatic relations with Egypt. He said: We hope that this move will be a good omen for Arab relations. Dr al-Mahjub urged the Arab nation to be equal to the responsibility and to abandon differences. He said that Jordan's initiative will lead to positive results for the entire Arab nation.

He was received at the airport by 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives, heads of House committees, Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Ihab Wahbah, and the Egyptian Embassy staff.

Husayn Receives Group

JN281250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received the Nile Valley Parliament delegation led by Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub at Al-Nadwah Palace today. Dr al-Mahjub conveyed to the king the Nile valley people's congratulations and support for the Jordanian leadership, people, and government for the brave and wise national move to restore political and diplomatic relations with Egypt — a move that is considered a good beginning for the Arab nation.

Dr al-Mahjub conveyed to the king President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's message which includes the president's greetings to the king and his wishes of success. The delegation expressed the Egyptian and Sudanese people's appreciation and pride for King Husayn's leadership and pan-Arab course devoted to the service of the Arab nation and its just causes to safeguard its generations' future.

His majesty thanked the parliamentary delegation and the Nile valley people for their good and fraternal feelings, asserting that Jordan's move to restore relations with fraternal Egypt stems from Jordan's concern for Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. The king praised Egypt's pan-Arab stand under President Mubarak and its role in the service of its Arab nation's causes.

The meeting, which included a working lunch, was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the minister of the court.

'Ubaydat Meets Parliamentarians

JN281308 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received the Nile Valley Parliament delegation led by Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub in his office today. At the beginning of the meeting, 'Ubaydat welcomed the guest delegation and expressed his hope that the meeting will be a fruitful beginning for more fraternal cooperation and rapprochement among all fraternal Arabs so that the Arabs will achieve their objectives of development, progress, and prosperity. The prime minister also expressed his hope that the accord between Jordan and Egypt will be an example to be followed by the fraternal Arab countries in order to achieve Arab solidarity which represents the path to achieve Arab aspirations and objectives.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub conveyed the Nile valley people's greetings and appreciation for the Jordanian leadership, government, and people for King Husayn's pan-Arab move to restore political and diplomatic relations with Egypt. He said: This move represents a new glimmer of hope and a good omen for good relations among all Arab people. Dr al-Mahjub wished the Jordanian Government further success in the service of the fraternal Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by Speaker of the House of Representatives 'Akif al-Fayiz, a number of the House members, and Egyptian Charge D'Affaires to Jordan Ihab Wahbah.

Group Meets House Speaker

JN281540 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 Gmt 28 Oct 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Oct (PETRA) — House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and a number of House members have received the Nile Valley Parliament delegation led by Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Fayiz welcomed the fraternal delegation in its second homeland, Jordan, which deeply appreciates the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. He also praised His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab move to resume full relations with fraternal Egypt. He added that this blessed step comes from Jordan's deep belief in its nation's causes and Arab solidarity, and from Jordan's appreciation for Egypt's leading and pan-Arab role and its great sacrifices in defending the Arab nation, its entity and existence.

Al-Fayiz also asserted that Egypt cannot dispense with its nation and the Arab nation cannot dispense with Egypt. Egypt is with us — with its history, civilization, and its Nile, which is our nation's lifeline and source of our power.

He pointed to the identical views of Jordan and Egypt regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, Lebanon, and the need for a joint Arab action to unify their efforts to confront all the dangers that are surrounding our nation.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub also praised the restoration of relations with Egypt, and said this step deserves every appreciation and gratitude from us. He said that the delegation's visit took place at the blessing of Presidents Ja'far Numayri and Husni Mubarak. He also highly praised His Majesty King Husayn's move, and said that Egypt deeply appreciates the move that one of the Arab leaders took in order to pave the way for Egypt's return to its nation. He added: We are concerned about convening an international conference to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in which all the concerned parties will participate.

During the meeting, a comprehensive dialogue was held with the participation of a number of the Hosue members and the Nile Valley Parliament delegation. The meeting was attended by Salman al-Qudat, Rizq al-Batayinah, Musa Abu al-Raghib, Muhammad al-Haj 'Abdallah, Muflih al-'Awdatallah, Farah Abu Jabir, Fayyad Jarrar, Muhammad Ahmad al-Dhuwayb, and Dr 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah.

Confers With Senate President

Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Oct (PETRA) — President of the Senate Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab move to restore political and diplomatic relations with Egypt is the outcome of Jordan's commitment to the principles of the great Arab revolt which called for the Arab nation's unity and freedom and for building its strength and solidarity.

During his meeting with Dr Rifa't al-Mahjub, Egyptian People's Assembly speaker and head of the Nile Valley Parliament delegation, and the accompanying delegation, Al-Lawzi asserted that Jordan's move did not emanate from a vacuum. The move was an expression of the appreciation of Jordan's king, government, and people for Egypt's pan-Arab role, international weight, and great sacrifices in the defense of the Arab nation's entity, existence, and fate. Al-Lawzi emphasized that Egypt should not be removed from its Arab nation. He pointed out that Egypt exists with us through its history, prosperity, civilization, and the Nile. Egypt is a genuine source of Arab strength. Al-Lawzi noted that the Jordanian and Egyptian stands are identical concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war and Lebanon. He asserted that Jordan has a deep belief in its commitment to unify Arab efforts to achieve Arab solidarity.

Dr al-Mahjub highly praised King Husayn's move to restore relations with Egypt. He said: Egypt is satisfied that one of the Arab leaders paved the way for Egypt's return to its nation. He asserted that the enemies of the Arabs hope that the state of fragmentation will remain in the Arab arena.

Dr al-Mahjub said that the Jordanian move deserves a visit by a ranking delegation, and that the delegation's visit was blessed by Presidents Ja'far Numayri and Husni Mubarak.

He added that Egypt, which has always occupied a leading position and offered great sacrifices, will never relinquish its stand. He pointed out that several international forces extend unlimited aid to Israel. This is why we are required to use all the cards in our hand to influence these forces in order to help achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Dr al-Mahjub reiterated the Egyptian Government's concern about supporting the efforts aimed at convening an international conference for peace in which all the parties concerned should participate.

Attending the meeting were Senate members Bahjat al-Talhuni, 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Rifa'i, Zayd al-Rifa'i, Ahmad al-Tarawinah, Nastas Hananiya, Dhugan al-Hindawi, Khalil al-Salim, Akram Zu'aytir, Habis al-Majali, 'Amir Khammash, 'Ali Hasan 'Awdah, and Nayif al-Khurayshah.

A comprehensive dialogue was held during the meeting, which was attended by the Senate members and the Nile valley delegation members. The dialogue revolved around the bases of the joint Arab action against the challenges and threats to the Palestine question and the fateful Arab issues.

Trade Minister Returns From Cairo 26 Oct

JN261320 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and tourism, returned to Amman this morning following his participation in the Jordanian-Egyptian talks that Crown Prince Hasan held in Cairo last week.

In a statement to PETRA, Dr al-'Anani said that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Egypt signed the eighth protocol on strengthening trade between the two fraternal countries during next year. He added that the minutes of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committees' meetings were also signed. He said: We hope that the remainder of the bilateral agreements in all fields will be signed.

Commenting on the agreements that were signed, the minister of industry, trade, and tourism said that signing the eighth protocol was a clear sign of the strong relations between the two fraternal countries.

AL-RA'Y Criticizes Shultz' Terrorism Initiative

JN270715 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 27 Oct 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Honest Policy Protects Strategic Interests," *AL-RA'Y* says: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz believes that U.S. strategic interests in the world will be exposed to attacks in the coming years. In a clear threat, Shultz announced that the United States will deal both retributive and preventive blows to protect these interests. Thus, it is clear that U.S. policy has learned nothing from the past and refuses to understand that protection of strategic interests cannot be achieved by revenge or by preventive blows, but by adopting a just and balanced policy that will improve the U.S. image and reputation which have been tarnished by the biased practices of successive U.S. administrations — practices which filled oppressed people in many parts of the world with bitterness, despair, and rage.

AL-RA'Y adds: The U.S. practices are represented by its blatant collusion with the Israeli aggressors, as a challenge to the people who are subject to aggression in our region, in U.S. collusion with the dictatorial regimes in Latin America, and as a challenge to its people. In Africa, the U.S. challenge is represented by attempts to impose U.S. hegemony.

AL-RA'Y concludes: In light of this fact, U.S. decisionmakers must realize that honest policy protects the strategic interests in the world.

Explosion on Bus in Jerusalem Reported

JN281624 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Four Arab citizens were injured in an explosion that took place on an Arab bus in the western part of the occupied city of Jerusalem this afternoon. Israeli radio said that the bus operates between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. It has been learned that terrorist Zionist groups planted bombs in a number of Arab buses last April, but these bombs were discovered before they exploded. Later, reports said that one of the injured died of his wounds, according to Israeli information.

Israel Responsible for Attack

JN290928 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Oct 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Collusion in Broad Daylight"]

[Text] The results of the last elections in the Zionist entity were not the only sign of the extremism now governing that entity. The terrorist acts being carried out against our kinfolk and citizens in the occupied territory also reflect the reality of this terrorist extremism that has acquired an official nature through the blessing and participation of the political and military administration in Israel.

The attack on the Arab bus near occupied Jerusalem yesterday could not have been carried out by Jewish settlers alone, especially since the attackers used the antitank and anti-armor TOW rocket, with which the Israeli Army is equipped and which Israel has used in several hostile operations, including its invasion of Lebanese territory.

This big terrorist operation is proof of the organized Zionist terrorism that is practiced by the Israeli authorities against our kinfolk in the occupied territory. It is meant to liquidate Arab existence on Palestinian territory and to spread terror and despair in order to make our people in the occupied homeland lose hope and abandon their land to the Zionist settlers, who are operating

with the support and blessing of the Israeli Government and the assistance of the Israeli Army and its commanders.

A mere statement by Shim'on Peres "denouncing the incident" will neither clear his government of responsibility for this terrorist act nor rule out the involvement of certain Army elements. Putting the blame on Jewish settlers is only an attempt to avoid responsibility and distort the truth. How could Jewish settlers have obtained TOW rockets without their being delivered to them from Israeli Army supplies? How could they have used the rockets without being helped by Army elements in mounting and firing them at the Arab bus and its innocent passengers, including women, children, and old people?

Our Arab citizen in the occupied territory knows the facts. He knows the "official" nature of the Zionist terrorism being practiced against him. He knows that the new crime was committed at the very same time when terrorist MK [Knesset Member] Me'ir Kahane was making threats against Arab citizens and calling on them to leave their homes, and only a few days after Ari'el Sharon, a minister in the Peres government, had participated in a terrorist demonstration in the city of Hebron, which is now exposed to the harshest colonialist settlement onslaught on our occupied territory. As we said, our Arab citizen is fully aware of the objective. These terrorist campaigns and extremist acts will only make him more determined to hold onto his land and to make further sacrifices out of his belief in and commitment to his cause.

This splendid heroic and courageous Arab steadfastness has destroyed many expansionist dreams, brought Zionist terrorism out into the open, and exposed the collusion between the Israeli Government and the terrorist organizations in it —organizations that imagine every Arab bus to be a tank and every Arab child a soldier fighting for his homeland.

The will for steadfastness will continue to be stronger than the Tow rocket and more potent than all the tools of murder and destruction. It is part of the will for justice which is bound to prevail in the end regardless of the length of time and cost of sacrifices.

QNA: Husayn To Undertake Ministerial Reshuffle

GF290906 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Oct (QNA) — King Husayn of Jordan has stressed that he will shortly undertake a ministerial reshuffle in Jordan and that this may take place tomorrow. [Doha QNA inArabic at 0840 GMT on 29 October carries a corrected repeat of this item which deletes the phrase "and that this may take place tomorrow"]. In an interview to be published by Kuwaiti papers tomorrow, he also denied that he has met with Shim'on Peres, the prime minister of the Zionist enemy government. He emphasized that there are no contacts with the government of Peres on any issue and that his country will not abandon the Arabism of Jerusalem.

With regard to the convocation of the PNC in Jordan, he said: We do not object, but we have not received any official request to this effect. He also asserted the need for Arab governments to grant passports to the Palestinians, indicating that Jordan should not have to shoulder this responsibility alone.

Briefs

Outgoing U.K. Ambassador— British Ambassador Sir Alan Urwick left Amman for London Saturday following the end of a six-year term in Jordan. On Thursday Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri hosted a luncheon at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in honour of the British ambassador on the occasion of the end of his term in Jordan. Earlier Thursday Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received Sir Alan. [Excerpts] [*Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 84 p 2 JN*]

Exploratory Oil Drilling — Prime Minster Ahmad 'Ubaydat has approved the Natural Resources Authority's hiring of cadres and experts from abroad to help implement the intensive 1985 oil exploratory drilling program at the Hamzah oil field as soon as possible. He also approved the authority's timetable for installing two drilling rigs in the Hamzah field. The prime minister urged the authority to speed up drafting the 5-year oil exploration plan for for 1986-1990. The prime minister also approved that the Natural Resources Authority request an advance payment from its 1985 allocations from the Ministry of Finance to buy the equipment. [Excerpts] [*Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Oct 84 pp 1, 19 JN*]

Al-Jumayyil, Ministers To Go to Algeria 29 Oct

NC290622 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil will leave for Algeria in the next few hours in response to an official invitation. [Former] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Minister Nabih Birri will also go to Algeria. Minister Birri left for Kuwait yesterday for talks with Kuwaiti officials on the situation in Lebanon.

Karami Meets Al-Jumayyil, Comments on Issues

NC262005 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil held a weekly meeting at the republican palace in B'abda with Prime Minister Rashid Karami at 1800 today. During the meeting, they assessed the implementation of the decisions made during the extraordinary Cabinet meeting on Saturday, particularly regarding the closure of the illegal ports, the strengthening of the Lebanese economy, and the implementation of the decisions made during the Bikfayya conclaves.

Following the meeting that lasted until 1945, Prime Minister Karami said: I reviewed with his excellency the president the outcome of the decisions adopted at the latest Cabinet meeting. This outcome promises several positive things, which reflected on the rate of the Lebanese pound. Karami added: [Words indistinct] the authority shoulders responsibiliteis that must be faced. Therefore, there are new measures that we will study and formulate as decisions that the Cabinet may adopt. This affirms, Karami said, that the public interest that we uphold and the citizens' awareness and their willingness to respond to the guidance of the economic and financial functionaries and establishments may produce fruit. We all want to confront the wave of soaring prices that ensued from the rising rate of the U.S. dollar.

Karami further said: We are thinking and acting on the basis of these premises and his excellency the president and we will continue on this path as long as it serves the citizens' interests.

He was asked by correspondents: We understand that security measures will be taken during the Cabinet meeting tomorrow? Karami replied: The studies and contacts we are making with various functionaries will eventually lead to a situation that we hope will contribute to serving the supreme national interests.

Asked if any Lebanese arrangements will be made in the south should Israel withdraw from part of southern Lebanon, Karami said: As a country we in fact suffer from the occupation of parts of our territory and we will not obstruct any action that might lead to the total or gradual liberation of this territory or reject such withdrawals. We must be ready to face such withdrawals and study their repercussions. We are confident of the consciousness of the Lebanese citizens and their response to their interests [words indistinct]. I would frankly say [words indistinct] creating problems among [words indistinct] or among sects, which has happened in the mountain. I hope that this will not be repeated given our knowledge of our people's patriotism and constant readiness to maintain their unity and sovereignty.

Asked whether the Cabinet meeting tomorrow will discuss decisions made during the security meetings, particularly the issue of the illegal ports and certain public utilities, Karami said: There is no doubt that we will implement all these decisions and, therefore, we are continuing our studies and contacts to pave the way to start implementing these decisions. We are confident that all citizens will respond [words indistinct].

Reportage on Visit of UK Foreign Secretary

Arrives in Bikfayya

NC281037 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in Bikfayya at 1030 today. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Karami attended the meeting.

Sir Geoffrey arrived in Bikfayya on board a helicopter from Cyprus, accompanied by an official delegation. He was received by President al-Jumayyil at his residence. The British minister was accompanied by Lady Howe.

After a brief rest, Lebanese-British talks began. In addition to President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami, the talks are being attended on the Lebanese side by Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general; Major General Ahmad al-Haj, Lebanese ambassador in London; Ambassador Sulayman Farah, acting director general of protocol at the presidential palace; and Brigadier General Muhammad 'Adnan al-Khalil. The talks are being attended on the British side by Sir David Miers, British ambassador to Lebanon; Mr (Owen Ferguson), deputy assistant foreign secretary; Mr (Christopher Long), head of the Near East and North African Department in the British Foreign Office; Mr (John Golden), press adviser; and Mr (Lynn Appleyard), private secretary to Sir Geoffrey.

The talks are still in progress. Sir Geoffrey is expected to hold a news conference after the talks. He will then have lunch with President al-Jumayyil and leave for Israel in the afternoon via Cyprus.

Karami Comments on Talks

NC281445 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Following the Lebanese-British talks, Prime Minister Rashid Karami reaffirmed Lebanon's clear position on negotiations with Israel through the armistice commitee. He said that there is nothing to prevent the participation of any state in the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon and that Britain has no objection to such participation. Here are Prime Minister Karami's comments:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, can you give us the facts on your unexpected talks with the British foreign secretary today?

[Karami] The British foreign secretary's visit came at a time when talks have been taking place both at home and abroad on the Israeli withdrawal. We exchanged views on current issues and on how the talks might lead to a withdrawal as rapidly as possible. Secretary Howe asked about certain points in regard to the nature of talks. Our position is clear. Any talks through the military must be conducted on the basis of the armistice agreement. The only problem in this respect is Israel's refusal to recognize this agreement. We then proposed that indirect talks might produce a definition of the nature of our discussions.

In regard to the Lahd army, we can recognize only the legitimate army, which is the only instrument that can be depended upon to maintain security in the south, as in other Lebanese areas. We expect Britain, which had offered encouragement in its policy, to help the United Nations in its current application of good offices between Lebanon and Israel.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, is Britain prepared to join the UN emergency forces in the south if requested by Lebanon?

[Karami] I do not think that anything obstructs the participation of any state in the implementation of an agreement that we might obtain soon and that would include an effective role for the United Nations. Naturally, Britain has no objection to such participation. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

NC281827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] After meeting with senior British Embassy officials, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe held a news conference at which he discussed the outcome of his talks. He said: The first thing that drew my attention in terms of the Middle East problem is the need for a rapid solution of the Lebanese issue. This is my second visit to the Middle East this year. I began it with a brief visit to Lebanon to meet with President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami.

He said: The British Government's position on the Lebanese crisis has always been clear and firm. We condemned the invasion in June 1982 and we stressed the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. This was the primary subject of my recent talks with the Israeli Government.

Asked whether the talks dealt with an expansion of the UN emergency forces' role in southern Lebanon and with whether Britain can join these forces, Sir Geoffrey said: This subject was discussed on several occasions. I can say that agreement on expanding the UN emergency forces' role does not necessarily call for our direct participation in the field. As you know, we have played an important part in providing assistance from a distance. Our participation in the field is not the only way to offer support. We have the ability to supply support from a distance and we can participate if requested to do so by the Lebanese Government.

In response to another question, Sir Geoffrey said: My stop in Beirut was not en route to Israel this evening. I paid this visit because I wanted to. When I was in Damascus last January I wanted to visit Beirut, but could not do so at the time. I have hoped all along to be able to come here. I am pleased that I came today, for this permits me to become more acquainted with developments and helps me in my talks with the Israeli Government.

Asked whether he would mediate in an effort to bring views closer, Sir Geoffrey said: I am not here to engage in mediation. I am not involved in any Anglo-European initiative. I am here to reaffirm our support and to speed up the reconciliation process.

Reportage on Plan To Control Illegal Ports

Cabinet Approves Plan

NC271255 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] It has been learned that the Cabinet today approved the security plan to bring the illegal ports, the Riyad al-Sulh telephone and postal center security, and airport road security under state control.

It has also been learned that this plan will be implemented in 8 days — that is, next Sunday.

The Cabinet also decided to order the security organs to firmly implement the decisions to stop all violations which hamper the imposition of state authority and the rule of law.

Ships May Be Sunk

NC270656 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] An official Lebanese source was quoted as saying that Lebanon regards the ports of Beirut, Tripoli, Juniyah, Sidon, and Tyre as the legal ports of the state.

The source added that measures have been taken to define the navigation routes of merchant ships immediately after entering Lebanese territorial waters.

Measures were also taken to escort these ships upon leaving these waters to prevent them from entering any illegal port.

The source warned that any ship violating these measures will face penalties that could reach the point of sinking or confiscating them.

Army Threatens Attacks

NC271329 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Following the Cabinet decision to control illegal ports in accordance with a strict security plan, it has been announced that the Lebanese Army will not hesitate to bombard from land, sea, or air any ship violating this law so that the Army can implement the Cabinet decision precisely and without any leniency.

Ports Classified Into Categories

NC281248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] During the next week the Lebanese Army will prepare the security measures which together constitute the security plan approved during yesterday's extraordinary Cabinet session. The Army will begin implementing this plan during the week of 4 November. The plan in particular provides for extending the legal authority to all the ports in order to control security and the collection of fees and to stop smuggling through the illegal ports. The plan also provides for stricter control over customs at Beirut International Airport ard the road leading to it.

Responsible sources have classified ports into three categories:

Legal ports: Beirut, Juniyah, Tripoli, Sidon, and Tyre.

Private ports: Two in Shikka, two in Sil'ata, one in the Tapline, and one in Al-Zahrani.

Illegal ports: Al-'Abdah, Al-Minyah, Al-Barid, Al-Mina, Kafr 'Ubayda, the Aqua Marina, Al-Dubayyah, the fifth dock at Beirut Port, Khaldah, Al-Jiyah, and Al-Sarafand.

The Army will set up units for the airport, the port, the central post office, and the Finance Ministry. It will also establish a joint operations room for the Army, the Internal Security Forces, and the general security, supplied with radio equipment. It will also establish a ground, air, and naval force. The Army will coordinate with friendly forces in order to implement the measures in the north.

Birri Opposes Decisions, Considers Quitting

NC271931 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, said at a news conference at his home in Beirut this evening that he informed the Cabinet at its meeting today that he will not be bound by all of the decisions that have been made. He added: I have opposed these decisions when they were made. Birri also said: I deem myself free of these decisions, and will again face the Lebanese people to see if they wish to allow me to remain in my post.

Birri then added: I am about to pay an official visit to Kuwait and Algiers. On my return, I will hold talks with the Syrian brothers and the Islamic and national leaderships and will consult with the Amal Movement's Political Bureau to determine whether I will remain in my post.

Birri pointed out that the government admitted at the Cabinet meeting that it held meetings with the Americans to mediate a postponement of the Israeli withdrawal. He said: I stated at the entrance to the palace that on my return from my trip, I will reconsider my decision to remain in the government.

Minister Birri disclosed that the ministerial committee meeting on the issue of increasing the number of deputies did not produce results because of Minister al-Hashim's insistence that the number of Maronite deputies be larger than those of other sects, and because of Minister Skaf's demand that if the number of deputies is to be increased, the number of Greek Catholic deputies must be more than 10. He said that the committee ended by entrusting Minister Skaf to prepare the census that is available at the Interior Ministry to provide a basis for discussions.

Junblatt Views Cabinet Sessions, Threatens To Resign

NC281009 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt made a press statement in which he said that the Cabinet discusses only stupid matters and that he personally will not attend Cabinet sessions to discuss such matters.

He added: I can depend on Ministers Birri and al-Huss to speak on my behalf. Junblatt has threatened to resign if his demands are not met.

Al-Hashimi, Sham'un on Birri, Junblatt Threats

NC281247 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Commenting on the position of Minister Nabih Birri, Minister Joseph al-Hashim said: During Cabinet discussions, Minister Birri raises all issues and views them from a sectarian perspective. He claims outside the Cabinet that he is against sectarianism and threatens to resign. Minister al-Hasim added: These threats have become old-fashioned. Let anyone who wants to resign, resign. There is no need to make threats.

In a statement to Radio Free Lebanon at noon today, [former] President Camille Sham'un said it is impossible to impose a ministerial post on anybody. Therefore, Ministers Birri and Junblatt can resign their ministerial posts and are free to make their own decisions.

Sham'un added: If we accepted equal distribution of parliamentary seats between the Christian and Muslim deputies, this does not mean that we are relinquishing the right of the Maronite community to be represented by a sufficient number of the Christian deputies. We insist that the Maronites must enjoy their full right of representation. Irrespective of everything, nobody can deprive the Maronites of their full right.

Junblatt, Birri Views Taken to Al-Jumayyil

NC290835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] A source close to Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri has stated that the two ministers believe that all the measures and decisions adopted by the Cabinet are not being properly implemented.

The source revealed that peripheral contacts are taking place on several levels to eliminate the obstacles that have arisen and to

halt the attempts being made to prevent the implementation of the government's policy statement in the agreed upon manner.

These contacts began yesterday with a meeting that included Minister Junblatt, [Saudi mediator] Rafiq al-Hariri, and former Minister Marwan Hamadah.

The discussions dealt with the recent developments and the ways to resolve the disputed issues.

This meeting was followed by a long telephone conversation between Hamadah and Minister Birri before Birri left for Kuwait.

They discussed the situation. Minister Birri briefed Hamadah on his ideas for remedying the current situation.

After the meeting, Al-Hariri went to Bikfayya to meet with President al-Jumayyil, taking with him Junblatt's and Birri's views on resolving the new problems and the means by which to implement the government's policy statement.

Junblatt Says No Control Over Resistance

NC281843 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Beirut, Oct 28 (AFP) — Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Druze leader and public works minister, today warned that he had no intention of protecting the Israeli and Phalangist forces from the national resistance in southern Lebanon.

"I am neither willing nor able to prevent the national resistance from operating," he said in an interview with the Lebanese weekly newspaper," *MONDAY MORNING.*

"Let the Israelis and the Phalangists understand that I will not be a police(man) for their interests. I have no commitment to defend them."

"Of course," he added, "I advise the Palestinians not to go back to some of their old sanctuaries in Beirut and Iqlim al-Kharrub (close to Israeli forces) because it could embarrass everybody."

Israeli military leaders have recently complained of anti-Israeli commandos infiltrating Israeli-controlled zones of southern Lebanon from Druze regions. Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, accused the Druze of not respecting their commitment to prevent such forays.

Mr. Junblatt threatened to quit the Beirut government "if President Amin al-Jumayyil goes on in his policy of stalling and foot-dragging tactics."

"President al-Jumayyil uses Iqlim al-Kharrub and Suq al-Gharb to apply pressure on us.... to impose his political solutions he steps up the military pressure in those areas," said Mr. Junblatt.

Suq al-Gharb is a mountainous region overlooking Beirut where Druze forces and the Lebanese Army oppose one another.

Iqlim al-Kharrub is a stronghold for Druze and Christian forces.

RFL Describes Conditions at U.S. Embassy

NC261240 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The employees of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut are living in a mind-set of those who feel wanted by terrorists, especially following intelligence reports warning the embassy of an operation before the U.S. presidential elections.

The embassy has suspended the operations of the consular section and has stopped giving entry visas to the United States, except to those who carry diplomatic or special passports.

It should be recalled that following the 'Awkar explosion, the number of embassy employees was reduced from 99 to 45 and then to 30 employees, after 15 employees returned to the United States a week ago.

REUTER said today that the reduction of the number of employees is aimed at keeping casualties to a minimum in the event a terrorist operation occurs before the U.S. presidential elections.

Personnel from the Army's 6th Brigade, police squad 16, and the embassies' security department are guarding the embassy building in Beirut from the outside, while U.S. security men are guarding it from the inside.

Terrorists Preparing To Attack U.S. Gulf Embassy

NC270633 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] According to special security reports, a terrorist group, including Palestinians and Lebanese, is preparing for a big operation against a U.S. Embassy in a Gulf state.

The reports add that the terrorist group received its training in a camp in southern Iran and managed to (?infiltrate) into specific Arab states. Explosives and weapons were brought into these states by trucks which went across the Lebanese border.

The terrorist group is waiting for the zero hour to carry out its task. It is likely that this will be done before the U.S. elections in order to influence their outcome.

Reportage on Prospect of Israeli Withdrawal

Minister al-Huss on Withdrawal

NC261911 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Minister Salim al-Huss today demanded consensus on a security plan regarding the coastal route to the south and ensuring a role for the Army and Internal Security Forces in taking over security in areas vacated by Israel.

He said the government should prepare itself for an Israeli withdrawal from the areas of Sidon and Al-Zahrani as far as the Al-Litani, as such a withdrawal was not unlikely.

U.S. Reportedly Prevented Withdrawal

NC270711 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Our political reporter says that recently Israel was about to carry out a quick withdrawal from the Al-Awwali line to the Al-Litani River line without prior coordination with Lebanon or any other state concerned with what is happening in the area. Our reporter adds that a quick U.S. move prevented Israel from carrying out its plan.

The deputy chief of U.S. intelligence [not further identified] paid a secret visit to Israel and persuaded the leadership to change its mind about a quick withdrawal, because such a move could cause negative repercussions that could reflect on the U.S. presidential campaign. Such a move could also upset the coordination and understanding that exists between the United States and Israel. This subject will be discussed during U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's visit to Israel on Tuesday [30 October].

The radio reporter says that tomorrow the Israeli Government will probably make a decision in principle to withdraw, but implementation will not take place before the U.S. presidential elections on 6 November.

UNIFIL Plans for Withdrawal

NC271656 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 27 (AFP) — The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has drawn up plans to guard Palestinian refugee camps from attack should Israeli troops withdraw from southern Lebanon, sources close to UNIFIL said today.

The plans, devised in recent months, call for 150 troops to be permanently stationed at the camps, with reinforcements available from the main UNIFIL force, which totals 5,200 persons drawn from nine countries, the source said.

It was stressed that UNIFIL is charged with security for all civilian populations in the region, Lebanese or Palestinian.

PSP Radio Reports on 28-29 Oct Clashes

NC290635 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Although a cease-fire agreement was reached at 2200, the Army and its Phalangist militias continued to direct cluster and phosphorus bombs, as well as rockets, at residential areas in 'Aytat, Kayfun, Baysur, 'Ayn 'Nub, Al-Ma'rufiyah, 'Aynab, Al-Ghabun, 'Alyah, and Al-Wardaniyah.

The areas of Sabra, Shatila, Sfayr, and Al-Shiyah were also the targets of Army shelling. his forced the Progressive Socialist Party forces to return fire.

Violent clashes were still raging on the aforementioned combat lines and areas early this morning.

Guarded calm now prevails.

Amal Moves Weapons, Supplies to Southern Suburb

NC260845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] As part of the operation of transporting ammunition and military supplies, trucks belonging to the Amal Movement transported ammunition and weapons from the Al-Nasiriyah barracks near Riyaq to the southern suburb of Beirut via Dahr al-Baydar road this morning. This is the second operation of its kind this week.

Amal Gunmen in AL-MUSTAQBAL Office

NC271338 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Amal gunmen in West Beirut today broke into the office of *AL-MUSTAQBAL* magazine in 'Ayn al-Muraysah and occupied it.

Reportage on Activities of Palestinians

Tension Continues at Camp

NC271341 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in the Palestinian Wayval camp. Dissidents have set up blockades at the approaches to the camp and its periphery, as well as at Abu Sulaybah farm, where a group of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] followers has taken up a position along the main road. The group consists of about 70 persons equipped with heavy machine guns and RPG launchers.

Reports mention new dissension movements among Abu Musa's followers. PFLP member Abu Fathi [not further identified] led one of these movements. Other Palestinian officers led other dissension movements. These officers include Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih; Musa 'Awad, Jihad Ahmad Salih, and Ahmad Sa'id. All these officers were arrested and taken to a Palestinian camp in Syria.

'Operations Room' Established

NC260842 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Palestinian followers of dissident Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] have taken positions in the Ta'labayya orchards and set up a modern operations room.

Positions Fortified in Mountain

NC271256 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Palestinian gunmen have fortified their positions in the areas of Kayfun and 'Aytat with vehicles and guns.

Security reports say that a new group of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa

Muragha] followers has occupied positions on the mountain axes from 'Aytat to Al-Ma'rufiyah. The group is equipped with tanks, rocket launchers, and heavy guns and is estimated to number 500 gunmen.

Clash With Junblattists

NC271513 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The Army and observers' positions in Tallat and in Suq al-Gharb have received rocket and artillery shelling, as well as machine gun fire, from Junblatt followers' positions in 'Aytat.

Meanwhile, Kafr Shima and Bsaba received machine gun fire from the Al-Shuwayfat hills.

In Ru'aysat al-Shatr, explosions and gunfire were heard.

It was reported that the cause was differences between Palestinian and Junblatt gunmen.

It was reported a short while ago that the clashes between Palestinian gunmen and Junblatt followers expanded and spread to Baysur, Al-Ghabun, Tallast Ru'aysat 'Abd al-Jalil, and Mansuriyat Bhamdun.

Machine guns and RPG's are being used in these clashes.

Israeli Soldier Killed in Attack 27 Oct

NC280759 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon 0700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Yesterday, members of the Lebanese national resistance used rockets and machine guns to attack an enemy patrol on the 'Arab Salim-Jarju' road. Reports indicate that one Israeli soldier was killed and more were wounded.

Israeli Aircraft Bomb Positions in Al-Biqa'

NC281453 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] A squadron of Israeli warplanes bombarded armed positions in central Al-Biqa' at about 1600 today. Various security sources said that the Israeli aircraft bombarded military bases in the areas of Dahr al-Baydar, Al-Masna', and (Bayadir al-'Adas). Israel has not yet referred to this report, nor has it been confirmed by official Lebanese security sources.

Syrians Install SAM Batteries in Al-Baydar

NC270740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, Syrian forces have recently installed SAM-6 batteries in the Al-Baydar area. In the meantime, the Syrian Army has redeployed in Al-Biqa' plain and the special units have replaced the regular Army in upper Al-Matn.

Rif'at al-Asad To Disclose 'Serious' Matters
JN271728 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Dr Khalil Ahmad, chief of Syrian Vice President Dr Rif'at al-Asad's information bureau, told our radio today that Rif'at al-Asad will issue a statement to the Syrian, Arab, and world public in the next few days in which he will disclose very serious and important matters.

Communist Party Holds Anniversary Speech Rally
JN270827 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The Syrian Communist Party [SCP] held a speech rally at 1700 yesterday to mark its anniversary. The rally was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general; General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Progressive National Front Central Command members; PLO Executive Committee members; representatives of communist parties in socialist and Arab countries; and representatives of Arab liberation movements.

At the beginning of the rally Yusuf Faysal, assistant Secretary General of the SCP Central Committee, delivered a speech welcoming the Ba'th Party assistant secretary general and guests representing the forces of freedom, progress, and socialism. He said: This meeting, taking place in beloved Damascus on this occasion, is a meeting of solidarity with, support for, and rallying around Syria, because it represents steadfastness against the threats of imperialism and its ally, Zionism.

He said: It is a meeting of solidarity with and support for our Syrian Arab people in their struggle against Zionist aggression and their confrontation of all defeatist and capitulatory agreements.

Faysal added: Our party has struggled with all of the progressive parties in Syria, especially the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Our party has fought for the rights of the workers, for the toiling masses, and for establishing socialism.

Comrade Ilyas al-Lati, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, delivered a speech on behalf of the Ba'th Party. He stressed that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, will continue its policies and stands on various national causes. He pointed out continued imperialist schemes to impose control on the region's resources, and stressed the steadfastness of Syria and its cohesive domestic front against these schemes.

Comrade al-Lati said that their failure to impose control on the region has made imperialism and Zionism submit new liquidatory schemes, of which the Jordanian regime's recent measures of restoring relations with the Camp David regime was one indication. He stressed that Syria will remain committed to its pledge and will defeat any capitulatory step, as it has defeated the Camp David accords, the Reagan plan, and the 17 May agreement.

Al-Lati said that Syria has become a force not to be taken lightly, thanks to its policy of seeking balance between it and the Zionist enemy. He pointed out Syria's concern to exploit Arab solidarity in the service of pan-Arab causes, and Syria's concern to exploit Arab solidarity in the service of pan-Arab causes, and Syria's realization that the great burden in this respect rests on its shoulders and on the shoulders of the Arab masses and the progressive regimes. Al-Lati referred to Syria's continued support for the Palestinian brothers, and its support for Lebanon, so that it can regain its vitality, unity, and independence. He said that Syria is proud of its confrontation with all forms of conspiracies, and of its stands in support of all forces of liberation and progress in the world. He also expressed pride in the sincere friendship and fateful strategic cooperation with the USSR, the Arab nation's loyal friend and strong ally.

Comrade al-Lati praised the SCP's patriotic stands; and its struggle against colonialism, Zionism, and exploitation; and its struggle for the causes of the toiling masses. He also praised the SCP's participation, with the Progressive National Front parties, in championing the cause of the workers and the peasants, and in struggling against capitulatory alliances and schemes. He expressed the hope that everyone would continue to work for the fulfillment of the masses' objectives under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum delivered a speech on behalf of the PLO. He praised the development of Syria's militant and polical struggle, and the maturity Syria has attained in its successful political experiment under the wise and successful leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the Ba'th Party secretary general. Al-Fahum praised the SCP and the stands it adopts in Syria, stressing that Syria has devoted itself to struggling for its own freedom and the freedom of all Arabs, always offering sacrifices for the sake of Arab causes. He added: Syria has succeeded in becoming a model of progress embodied in the lofty Arab edifice in this steadfast country.

He added that the corrective movement struggler Hafiz al-Asad led in the seventies has given this progress more clarity and this has been entrenched by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, through his continued insistence that Syria will not kneel down and that the only choice is a relentless struggle until victory is achieved.

The PNC speaker added: From time immemorial, Syria and Palestine have been one country, one heart, and one cause. The two countries have been one people and have had the same fate. The struggle of the Arab people in Syria and Palestine has been identical and united in the most critical circumstances.

He added that since the 1948 tribulation, Syria has announced that the cause of Palestine is its own cause. The Syrian Ba'th Party has always stated that the Palestinian cause is the central cause of the Arabs' struggle.

After this, speeches were delivered on behalf of the Iraqi Communist Party and the CPSU. Then Comrade Khalid Bakdash, SCP secretary general, delivered a speech. He spoke about the importance of this anniversary, and about the history and the stages of the struggle of the SCP and the national forces, from

French occupation until independence. Bakdash Said: The Syrian Arab Republic has firmly stood against Camp David, the establishment of military bases in the region, and the deployment of fleets in Arab waters. Syria has struggled and will continue to struggle for the liberation of all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 aggression.

He added: Syria has supported and continues to support the Palestinian Arab people's rights to repatriation, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their national independent state on their soil. Syria has struggled and will continue to struggle against the Reagan plan, and Syria has largely contributed to the victory by abrogating the 17 May agreement imposed on Lebanon.

On the international level, Comrade Bakdash praised Syria's contribution to the general struggle for safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe for mankind. He praised Syria's support for the initiatives of the USSR and socialist countries in this respect, and Syria's support for the USSR proposals. He added: Syria is not alone; it is supported by the broad masses in the Arab world, the USSR, and the socialist countries, and by all progressive and peace-loving forces in the world.

USSR's Brutents Addresses Rally

JN271910 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The Syrian Communist Party [SCP] held a speech rally yesterday evening to mark its 60th anniversary. Karen Brutents, deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the CPSU's Central Committee and Politburo. He said that one of the SCP's principal objectives — uniting all nationalist and democratic forces in the country — has been achieved through the establishment of the Progressive National Front, regarded as an important achievement for the Syrian people, who chose, under their President Hafiz al-Asad, independence and progress as their course.

Brutents expressed his country's appreciation for Syria's principled, effective stand in opposing U.S. and Israeli attempts to force the Arab people to agree to unjust conditions for a settlement. He said that relations between Syria and the USSR are developing on a firm basis through the cooperation and friendship agreement, relations that have achieved a high standard in all fields. President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit contributed a great deal toward broadening and reinforcing these relations between the two friendly peoples and countries.

USSR's Brutents Praises Al-Asad's Moscow Visit

JN290706 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, has emphasized that the visit Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, paid to the Soviet Union was a major event in Soviet-Syrian relations and was crowned with complete success.

In an interview with Syrian television yesterday evening, Brutents added that this visit will have a positive effect on the future of Soviet-Syrian relations. He said that during the talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Konstantin Chernenko practical agreements were reached. These agreements, he added, will promote cooperation between our two parties, countries, peoples, and governments in various political, military, and economic fields.

He added that the Soviet Union has highly appreciated Syria's role in confronting the hostile U.S.-Zionist policy and schemes. Comrade Brutents reiterated the Soviet Union's support for the Lebanese national unity government's efforts to achieve a national accord, safeguard Lebanon's unity and sovereignty, and liberate southern Lebanon from Zionist occupation. He praised the Lebanese national forces' struggle against the U.S.-Zionist schemes aimed at turning Lebanon into a protectorate.

He stressed that the aggravating Middle East tension is due to the continuation of Zionist occupation of the Arab territories and Washington's backing of the Zionist aggressors. In this regard, he hinted at the huge Arab capabilities to defend their rights. He said: What is important is to mobilize these capabilities, as in Lebanon.

The result of this mobilization, he added, was a victory described by the Syrian-Soviet communique as a great accomplishment for the Lebanese people, Syria, and the Arab nation.

He also indicated the importance of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East and touched on the Soviet proposals in this regard. He said that these proposals were supported by most Arab countries.

Ba'th Official Confers With Soviet Ambassador

JN271222 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Soviet ambassador in Damascus Feliks Nikolayevich Fedotov today. This first visit is a courtesy [words indistinct]. The talks revolved around the developing relations of cooperation and friendship between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU, and between Syria and the USSR.

The Ba'th Party assistant secretary general asserted the importance of this relationship and the need to continue efforts to develop it in various fields. This responds to the interests of both peoples and to the joint struggle of both friendly parties to confront imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary schemes against the Arab nation, the Arab and international liberation forces, and peace in the world.

The Soviet ambassador praised the Ba'th Party's principled course and revolution in Syria under Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Syrian Arab

Republic. He expressed satisfaction with the developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and two parties. He said that he will exert all efforts to continue work in accordance with the decision of both fraternal parties.

Al-Kasm Receives USSR Ambassador, Message

JN271552 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] At 1300 Today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Feliks Nikolayevich Fedotov, the Soviet ambassador to Damascus. This was a courtesy visit on the occasion of the ambassador's assumption of his new appointment in Syria. Fedotov gave Dr al-Kasm a written message from Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The discussion centered on the strong and developing relations of cooperation and friendship between Syria and the USSR. The talks also dealt with issues of mutual interest between the two friendly countries.

Reportage on Visit of Cuban Party Delegation

Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN270931 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA) — A Cuban Communist Party [PCC] delegation led by Comrade Eloy Valdes, deputy chief of the PCC Central Committee General Department of Foreign Relations, arrived here yesterday on a weeklong visit to Syria. During its visit, the delegation will meet with party officials and visit the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah, as well as tourist and historical sites in several Syrian provinces.

Ahmad al-As'ad Receives Delegation

JN282103 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade Ahmad al-As'ad, deptuy chairman of the Syrian-Cuban Friendship Society, received this evening the Cuban Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Eloy Valdes, deputy chief of the PCC Central Committee General Department of Foreign Relations.

Comrade al-As'ad briefed the Cuban delegation on the situation in the Middle East and Syria's steadfastness in the face of all the imperialist-Zionist schemes. He stressed that Syria is capable of foiling all the plots hatched by imperialist-reactionary circles.

Comrade Valdes stressed the appreciation of the Cuban people, Government, and party for Syria's steadfast stands under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He praised the relations of friendship between Syria and Cuba in the interest of the two peoples and countries.

Reportage in Visit of Ethiopian Information Minister

Felleke Arrives in Damascus

JN271822 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, Ethiopian minister of information and member of the Central Committee of the Ethiopian Workers Party, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria during which he will deliver a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Hafiz al-Asad. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh and senior ministry officials.

The Ethiopian information minister said that he will hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the region. The minister is accompanied by (Paulo Sukkim), and Talsam Ahmed, editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-'ALAM*.

Al-Asad Receives Felleke, Message

JN281153 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] At 1315 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, Ethiopian minister of information. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. The Ethiopian minister conveyed to the president a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The president asked him to convey a reply message and his greetings to President Mengistu and the Ethiopian people. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in Africa and the region, and issues pertaining to the Nonaligned Movement.

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Party Delegation

Al-Ahmar Receives Coman, Delegation

JN281224 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received the Romanian Communist Party delegation led by Ion Coman, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee. The meeting was attended by Comrade Mit'ib Shinan, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Romanian Communist Party and between Syria and Romania, current developments in Syria and Romania, and the implementation of the two parties' resolutions in both countries.

Comrade Coman affirmed the stand of his party and country in supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil. He also affirmed his country's stand on the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967. He said Romania is working hard to achieve the convocation of an international conference, which includes the PLO, to discuss the Middle East crisis.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed economic and political developments in Syria and the responsibilities it is shouldering as result of Israel's continuing aggression, backed by the United States. He affirmed Syria's steadfastness in the face of imperialist and Zionist designs aimed at imposing capitulation on the Arabs and hegemony over the entire region. Al-Ahmar noted the importance of reinforcing the front hostile to world imperialism, Zionism, and racism to confront the aggressive policy of the U.S. Administration, which creates hotbeds of tension around the world, supports aggressive policies, and continues the nuclear arms race.

Comrade al-Ahmar asked the delegation to convey President Hafiz al-Asad's warm greetings to President Ceausescu.

Talas Confers With Coman

JN281604 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, has received General Ion Coman, former Romanian defense minister, currently paying an official visit to Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Coman, heading a Romanian Communist Party delegation, was accompanied on this visit by the Romanian ambassador and the Romanian military attache in Damascus.

The talks revolved around the current international situation and bilateral relations. Coman asserted the importance of Syria's role under Hafiz al-Asad in confronting imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Rajjuh Receives French Ambassador in Damascus

JN271423 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA) — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh received here today French Ambassador in Damascus Henri Servant. The talks dealt with the situation in the region in general and bilateral relations, especially those concerning media cooperation.

'Abdallah al-Ahmar Receives YSP Official

JN281856 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] This evening, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received a delegation of the PDRY's Popular National Defense Organization led by Brother Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee member and head of the Popular National Defense Organization.

Attending the meeting was Syrian Popular Army Commander Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali. The talks dealt with the fraternal relations between the YSP and the Ba'th Party and between the popular organizations in the two fraternal countries. The talks also dealt with developments in the Arab arena and the role of the Arab forces of liberation, and steadfastness in confronting the reactionary, Zionist, and imperialist designs, particularly attempts of the Camp David regimes in Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq to peddle the Camp David course to impose a capitulationist U.S. solution on the Arab nation.

Al-Ahmar Receives Lebanese Party Officials

JN271425 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Suhayl Hammadah and 'Ali Bazzah, members of the Arab Democratic Party Command in Lebanon. They discussed the political developments in Lebanon and the Lebanese nationalist forces' role in confronting the hostile designs aimed against Lebanon and the Arab nation. Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's firm support for Lebanon and its people and for the Lebanese National Democratic Front in the struggle to liberate and reunite Lebanon.

Cabinet Prepares To Meet; Weizman's Sphere Cut

TA280631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] This morning the Cabinet is supposed to approve a decision made at the end of last week in a ministerial meeting with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to exhaust every possibility to achieve a U.S.-mediated political settlement between Israel and Syria in Lebanon and a military agreement with the Lebanese Government. This is known but it is still important to emphasize that there have been hectic behind-the-scenes contacts between Jerusalem and Beirut directed by a senior UN Secretariat official, (Jean Claude Aimee), who is currently in the region trying to arrange a meeting between IDF and Lebanese Army officers to discuss security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

(Aimee) conferred with the chief of staff and the Foreign Ministry director general at the end of last week. The main bone of contention is that Lebanon still insists that the talks be held under the auspices of the Armistice Commission, but Israel opposes this. The talks are slated to take place at the UN Command in Al-Naqurah.

On Tuesday Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy will arrive in Israel to continue the shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus. This morning the Cabinet will give the go ahead for this move without setting any time limits.

On a completely different matter: In the future there will be no meetings between the prime minister and the charge d'affaires of the Egyptian Embassy in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, without the presence and participation of a Foreign Ministry official. This was clarified in talks between the prime minister and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. As may be recalled, last week Peres met with Basyuni in the presence of Minister 'Ezer Weizman. Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear to Peres that foreign affairs policy, including that regarding Egypt, is to be conducted by his ministry and Weizman is to have no say in the matter. It has been learned that the ideas and proposals discussed in those meetings which are intended to bring about a resolution of the Tabah conflict with Egypt are unacceptable to the foreign minister. However, his position is that he will voice his opposition in a Cabinet discussion to be held on this issue in the near future. The question arising in political circles then is: If Weizman is not allowed to raise ideas on the Egyptian issue either, what is he doing or what will he do in the national unity government?

Lebanon Strategy Considered

TA280810 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Ilana Dayan report]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan was unanimously approved in consultations the prime minister held with a limited number of ministers at the end of last week. The plan talks of negotiations between IDF and Lebanese officers and indirect, U.S.-mediated contacts between Israel and Syria aimed at achieving Syria's consent, even tacitly, to remain where it is when the IDF withdraws, not to move southward, and to prevent the terrorists from infiltrating south of its zone.

Approval of the plan by the Cabinet today would be tantamount to backing the defense minister's actions already begun on the Lebanese issue, actions intended to bring about military-level negotiations with Lebanon, perhaps at the UN base in Al-Naqurah in the south.

As for the contacts with the Syrians, Yitzhaq Rabin has both publicly and privately expressed optimism regarding their willingness to reach such an agreement with Israel, due to the proximity of Syrian and IDF forces in the eastern sector in Lebanon — a distance of only 25 km — as well as the willingness already expressed by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to open negotiations with Israel, a willingness which, according to Jerusalem sources, Karami would not have expressed unless he had received the go-ahead from Damascus.

Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, is expected to arrive in Israel on Tuesday. Sources in the Defense Ministry and prime minister's office do not expect his mission to gain momentum before the U.S. elections.

It should be noted that the military-political move which the defense minister wants to launch does not include any unilateral measure; in other words, the IDF will not move from its current lines before the efforts vis-a-vis Damascus and Beirut are exhausted. Then, too, the IDF's freedom of action in southern Lebanon will be maintained.

What time does the plan allow for negotiations? When will other moves be considered? The defense minister says this is not a matter of days, nor of a few weeks, either. One of the ministers in the Inner Cabinet with whom we talked last night said that if no progress is made it will be necessary, at a certain stage, to adopt unilateral measures which will guarantee vital security arrangements. In such a case, he said, we will have to reduce unilaterally the size of the IDF's presence and forces in Lebanon.

Incidentally, last night Labor Party ministers met in Tel Aviv with Prime Minister Peres. They discussed the issues of Lebanon, the economy, and the functioning of the government. The Labor Party ministers coordinated their positions in preparation for this morning's Cabinet meeting. The issue of the Ata plant [which is financially bankrupt] will also be raised in the Cabinet meeting by Ministers Shahal and Sharon, as well as a proposal by the prime minister to empower the Cabinet secretary to conduct weekly followups to the implementation of the economic measures, especially the cuts by the various ministries.

Cabinet Meets, Issues Statement

TA281133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Israel's Cabinet met today to discuss the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Afterwards Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin read out the following statement:

[Begin recording] The government meeting within the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Defense dealt today with its policy towards Lebanon. The government decided to act for the implementation of Item 16 of its basic policies, stating that the government should do all that is necessary to secure peace in the Galilee. Security arrangements will be determined, which will make possible the withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon within a short period, to be defined by the government.

The government decided today that the implementation of this item shall be effected by the continuation of the negotiations for reaching agreements through the good offices of the United States, and an agreement between the Governments of Israel and Lebanon on security arrangements in southern Lebanon. [end recording]

Further Details

TA281204 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The main part of today's Cabinet meeting was dedicated to Lebanon, but we cannot talk about its details since the Cabinet met as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. We can only say that there were no surprises at the Cabinet meeting today. The ministers heard about and accepted the decision of the Inner Cabinet — that is, the decision made by the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs at the end of last week — according to which Israel will make possible a U.S. move or attempt to mediate between Israel and Syria about arrangements in Lebanon. The government's announcement mentions a clause from the basic guidelines of the national unity government which indicates a desire to implement withdrawal of the IDF from Lebanon after security arrangements for our northern border have been achieved.

We should perhaps emphasize additional developments in today's Cabinet meeting: Minister Ari'el Sharon did not express himself in the meeting; he did not express his opposition to UNIFIL chairing or sponsoring the negotiations. The majority of the ministers did express themselves during today's meeting, but as reported, it is impossible to divulge the details.

In conclusion, let us note the U.S. move for this week: On Tuesday Richard Murphy will arrive in Israel to continue the contacts between Jerusalem and Damascus about the possibility of some arrangements between Israel and Lebanon. To sum up, Israel, this government, wants to implement a withdrawal from Lebanon, but not without achieving something in return.

'Two-Track' Approach Noted

TA281901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The Cabinet has authorized Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to continue contacts that will hopefully lead to an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. There was no formal vote at the Cabinet meeting; the ministers unanimously approved the position adopted. Minister Ari'el Sharon, who was previously opposed to any negotiation with the Lebanese through UN auspices did not repeat this position in the Cabinet discussion. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet formally adopted a two-track approach to try and reach an agreement on Lebanon. Defense Minister Rabin has the green light to continue contacts with the Lebanese aimed at changing the mandate of UNIFIL — the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. This is a key issue now, for Lebanon must agree to any expanded UNIFIL role as part of the security arrangements that Israel is seeking.

On the second track, the U.S. will hold parellel negotiations with Syria.

The Cabinet also reiterated that Israel seeks security arrangements that will enable a speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces.

A senior government source says the Cabinet decision will put an end to the debate on how to hold contacts with Lebanon. The government is not insisting that the negotiations be conducted outside the UN, although Israel is still opposed to negotiations within the framework of the Armistice Commission, or having the UN chair the talks.

Lebanon's last word was: Negotiations must be through the Armistice Commission.

The Israeli source indicated that a UN mediating role would not be a problem.

The Cabinet did not set any time limit today, or take any decisions on redeployment.

Sizing up prospects for an agreement, a senior Israeli source said there is no certainty that the two-track approach will pay off. But there is a chance.

Outside the prime minister's office, a small group representing the Mothers Against Silence, a protest movement against Israeli involvement in Lebanon, held a quiet vigil while the Cabinet met. Later, Health Minister Mordekhay Gur told them the government's decision means that Israel will use all means to get Israeli forces out of Lebanon. Speaking for the demonstrators, No'omi Ben-Tzur said this could not be an overnight move, and she now believes the government's desire for a withdrawal was sincere. [end recording]

Approves Indirect Syrian Talks

TA290759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1,2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpt] Syria's concern over the strengthening of two of its Arab adversaries, Iraq and Jordan, ought to prompt it to conclude an agreement enabling Israel to withdraw from all of South

Lebanon.

This assessment was voiced by top policymakers here yesterday following the Cabinet's endorsement of Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's effort to negotiate indirectly with the Syrians over withdrawal terms.

The Cabinet — following the lead of the 10-man "inner cabinet" last week — also approved Rabin's intention to hold direct talks under UN auspices with Lebanese military officers over security arrangements in South Lebanon.

The policymakers cited Jordan's rapprochement with Egypt, and Iraq's expected rapprochement with Egypt as developments bound to disturb the government in Damascus.

They feel Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would ideally wish to disengage his army from the present eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation in the Al-Biqa' valley, and keep it handy for possible alternative requirements.

In addition, these policymakers believe Al-Asad might well be anxious to seize the chance to improve his relations with the U.S. afforded by an American mediation in South Lebanon. Resurfacing reports of American-Iraqi contacts must trouble him, the policymakers feel, while his own relations with his Soviet patron have not been totally harmonious.

Senior State Department Mideast aide Richard Murphy is expected in Israel tomorrow on a second brief "exploratory" mission to the region in connection with the south Lebanon problem. Rabin has predicted publicly that Washington will step up its diplomatic efforts after the presidential elections.

A third likely reason cited by the Israeli policymakers for Syria's eventual decision to negotiate is the country's desire to have Israel withdraw from all of Lebanon without achieving any political fruits from its invasion of June 1982.

Negotiations With Syria Believed Possible

U.S. Cautiously Optimistic

TA280900 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct 84 p 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpt] This week, senior State Department aide Richard Murphy is returning for a second "exploratory" trip — the U.S. is reluctant, yet, to use the term "mediation" — to Damascus, Beirut and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, well-placed sources said last night that Washington's decision to despatch Murphy meant that America shared Israel's cautious optimism regarding Syria's ultimate readiness to negotiate.

At the same time, though, contingency planning is going ahead in the defence establishment for a unilateral, partial pullback by the IDF should the diplomatic efforts fail.

Rabin, for tactical reasons, is anxious not to discuss this scenario publicly. But his aides say he will not allow the diplomatic efforts to drag on indefinitely. His time-frame, they say, is measured in terms of a few months. If the Syrians and the Lebanese fail to respond, he will apply himself to devising a satisfactory redeployment in south Lebanon that would relieve the IDF of its strength-sapping policing role, but leave it dug in against the Syrian army in the Al-Biqa'.

DAVAR Hopeful

TA280814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 28 Oct 84

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* believes that Israel's expectations of Syria as a condition for the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon are compatible with the interests of Damascus itself. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that renewed political efforts on this issue stand a good chance of succeeding. The understanding with Syria, along with other arrangements, including UNIFIL's deployment, is important for the pullback of IDF forces from southern Lebanon. We should aim at achieving this goal determinedly and consistently in the future. Regrettably the IDF will end up spending the coming winter in Lebanon, but efforts should be made to ensure that it will not have to spend a 4th year there.

Reportage on UK's Howe's Official Visit

Stance on War Seen Changed

TA271152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Israeli officials hope that British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will show support for Israel's position on Lebanon during his visit to Israel which begins tomorrow night. Reporter David Essing says the officials believe the British Government now has a better understanding as to why Israel intervened militarily in Lebanon to check PLO terrorism. At the outbreak of the Peace for Galilee operation Britain declared an arms embargo on Israel.

In an interview for our weekend program Spotlight Sir Geoffrey says the British arms embargo policy is being reviewed. During his visit the British foreign secretary is also planning to meet with Arab dignitaries from Judaea and Samaria.

Interviewed on Issues

TA271227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Tomorrow the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, begins his first visit to Israel. On the eve of his departure from London he discusses Anglo-Israeli relations with Jerry Lewis:

[Begin recording Howe] I think that relations between the two countries are good. They have been getting better but obviously there were problems over the relationship between Israel and many

countries at the time of the invasion of Lebanon. We have been anxious to see them put back on a normal, friendly basis, and that indeed is what has been happening. I hope my visit will contribute to that.

[Lewis] Mrs Thatcher said last week that she was anticipating a new U.S. initiative on the Middle East after their elections, and has ruled out a further European initiative. What will you be saying to Israeli leaders about Britain's future role in the region?

[Howe] Britain's role, like that of all our European partners, is one of great concern for the prospects for peace in the region. We are much concerned to ensure that Israel's right to security is clearly established. We are concerned also, of course, to see the other cause of problems, the Palestinians' aspiration for self-determination, recognized. We, the Europeans, and we in Britain, are not putting any specific initiative on the table, but we were very glad to hear President Reagan at the United Nations reaffirming that the United States will be resuming the task of trying to take the peace process forward after the election.

[Lewis] Do you have any specific ideas on improving trade between the two countries, for example in the field of high-tech? Will we be able to give some reassurance to Israel about their exports which may be affected by Spain's and Portugal's accession to the European Economic Community?

[Howe] We are certainly interested in the expansion of trade between the two countries. It's the way to help the economic strength of both countries forward. We are encouraged by the fact that our trade in the current year is about 21 percent up on last year. That's a good thing. We have taken a consistently interested line about the impact of enlargement on trade with countries outside the community, including of course Israel. We've been very anxious to ensure that enlargement doesn't strengthen the tendency for the European Community to become a protectionist, exclusive bloc. I am certainly expecting to hear something about that when I am in Israel.

[Lewis] No doubt the Arab trade boycott and the absence of legislation in this country to combat it, the British policy of not selling surplus North Sea oil to Israel, and also the continued arms embargo imposed in 1982, will also be discussed. Will you be conveying encouraging news to Israel on any of these three topics?

[Howe] Well, they're three quite big topics. We deplore the interference with trade that the boycott involves. As far as oil is concerned, there is no discrimination on our part there. We do sell oil to traditional customers in the European Community and associated with the International Energy Association. On the arms embargo, we were never, of course, major suppliers of arms to Israel. The embargo came into existence, not just on Britain's part but on the part of many countries, at the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It's certainly something that should be and is subject to review.

[Lewis] An international peace conference, involving the superpowers and the parties to the Arab-Israel conflict, has been repeatedly suggested by the Soviet Union. What is the British attitude to this proposal? Is it a serious option?

[Howe] We haven't so far regarded it as such. It doesn't seem to us, at this stage, to have an engine, to make it run so to speak. That's why we've welcomed particularly the renewed expression of interest by President Reagan and the United States. We think that that has got the best chance of getting off the ground in the near future. We're most anxious to do all we can to encourage the search for peace, and at the moment that seems the best horse to back. [end recording]

Visits Lebanon; Embassy Comments

TA281406 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe made a brief, unexpected visit to Lebanon this morning, prior to the start of his official visit to Israel. Howe flew from Cyprus on board a military helicopter to Beirut, where he conferred with President al-Jumayyil and members of his government. He will return to Cyprus later, and will come to Israel from there this afternoon.

The British Embassy in Tel Aviv has told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that the visit to Lebanon was not intended for mediation purposes, and that no message from Beirut to Jerusalem was involved. Secretary Howe wanted to use his Middle East visit to meet with the Lebanese prime minister and tour the British Embassy in Beirut, which has been through some difficulties recently.

It was reported in London on the eve of Howe's trip that Britain will be prepared to dispatch its own soldiers to an expanded UN force that would take the IDF's place in southern Lebanon.

Shamir Greets Howe

TA281548 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1525 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] We will now go over to Ben-Gurion Airport, where British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe landed just a few minutes ago. He was received by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel is there with our broadcasting van.

The British Foreign Secretary indeed landed a short while ago, and was welcomed by members of the Foreign Ministry staff, led by Foreign Minister and Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Begin Shamir recording — in English] Mr Foreign Secretary, it is with great pleasure that I greet you and Lady Howe on this, your first, visit to Israel. In the light of the recent terrorist attack directed against the British Government, we are especially thankful to be able to welcome you here in full health. In the short time you have at your disposal, we hope that you will be able to acquaint yourself with some of the problems facing us as well as some of our achievements. We welcome the opportunity to exchange views and to hold discussions on matters which concern both our governments. Frank and open dialogue cannot fail to pave the way towards greater mutual understanding, thereby enhancing the already warm relationship between our two countries.

Israel faces at the present time grave economic difficulties, and our challenge is to combat and master them, while not losing sight of our determination to secure true peace and stability in our region. [end recording]

[Deqel translates the above and continues] The visiting minister thanked Shamir and mentioned his brief visit today to Lebanon.

[Begin Howe recording — in English] This is, in fact, our third meeting during the year, but the two previous ones have been quite brief: one in a crowded gathering in Brussels earlier in the year; and another in the Chinese lounge of the United Nations in New York in September. This will be the first opportunity we have of longer discussions between us. As you say, the relations between our two countries are warm and good — that means that we shall have all the more time to exchange views about problems of the region and problems of the world.

As you know, this morning I was able to visit Lebanon and see there President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami. And, as you can imagine, we spent much of our time discussing the problems of south Lebanon, and I shall look forward to discussing those with Mr Shamir and his colleagues. [end recording]

[Deqel translates the above and continues] Sir Geoffrey Howe will spend 3 days in Israel. He is expected to discuss EEC matters, and the dangers lurking for Israeli exports when Spain and Portugal join that organization will be particularly stressed to him. The visitor will also hold talks on the international efforts to bring about an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. Sir Geoffrey Howe will meet with the president, as well as with the prime minister and the foreign minister. His schedule also includes meetings with the ministers of defense and finance.

As we said earlier, before he came to Israel the British secretary made an unscheduled visit to Beirut, where he conferred with the president and with Prime Minister Karami. At the end of his short visit, Howe said in Beirut that Britain will be prepared to send soldiers to UNIFIL units that will deploy in southern Lebanon — provided, naturally, it is asked to do so. This declaration by the guest will no doubt be discussed here in Israel as well.

Comments on Talks in Lebanon

TA281621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Israel this evening for a 2-day visit. Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport, the visitor emphasized that he is not a mediator and that he did not bring with him any plan for solving the Lebanese problem. At the same time, he noted that although the Lebanese problems may seen important only to Israel, they are also important to the whole world. He claims to have held an in-depth discussion with President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami on the problem of southern Lebanon, and said he will be happy to discuss it with his counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir, as well.

Denies Lebanon Mediation Role

TA281914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpts] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in Israel this afternoon for a 2-day visit. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The British foreign secretary flew in from Lebanon, where he met President al-Jumayyil. At Ben-Gurion Airport he voiced the hope that his visit would promote better relations between Israel and the United Kingdom:

[Begin Howe recording] I've long been interested, of course, in the chances of visiting your country. As you said, it is my first visit. Interested because one is bound to be interested, as I certainly am, in the problems which you've described and referred to, and in the successes of your country as well, because the success that you have in coping with your problems are of importance to the British people; the values which you value are those that we value; many of the things about which you're concerned are things about which we, too, are concerned.

This morning I was able to visit Lebanon and see there President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami. And, as you can imagine, we spent much of our time discussing the problems of south Lebanon. I shall look forward to discussing those with Mr Shamir and his colleagues.

Neither in respect of that problem, nor in respect of any other, do I come here equipped with a blueprint, nor do I come here presenting myself as a mediator. [end recording]

To Meet West Bank Officials

TA290527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, will meet today with the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister, and the finance minister. He will lunch with Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel and will hold a meeting with [chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee] Abba Eban. Last night, Secretary Howe met with his counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir, and the two agreed on the topics for today's meeting. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Sir Geoffrey Howe will meet with Arab personalities from the territories tomorrow morning.

Discusses Issues With Shamir

TA291104 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1049 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] The first working meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and Yitzhaq Shamir has just ended. The meeting opened with a debate on terrorism, and our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Shamir explained that terrorism is not only an Israeli but an international problem. Shamir said that

the world democracies must cooperate in combatting terrorism, and the visitor expressed his agreement with this idea.

As for the Lebanese problem, Sir Geoffrey said that the impression he received from his conversation with President al-Jumayyil yesterday was that the Lebanese want Israel to withdraw, but they also understand its demand for security arrangements.

Shamir States Views

TA291128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Minister Shamir told Sir Geoffrey Howe that the key problem is a direct or indirect understanding with the Syrians, and that though not easily obtained, this will come about in the future. The working talks between the two foreign ministers will continue this afternoon in the Knesset building. The guest is now meeting with Prime Minister Peres, and at noon he will lunch with Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel.

Howe Relays Thatcher Invitation

TA291222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1148 GMT 29 Oct 84

['Oded Ben-'Ami report from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, brought Prime Minister Shim'on Peres an invitation from Margaret Thatcher to visit Britain. The prime minister reviewed the main problems in the region — Lebanon, Judaea and Samaria, relations with Egypt, and the invitation to Husayn to join the negotiations.

In their first working meeting this morning, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the British minister on terrorism problems facing Israel, primarily the PLO's activity. The wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1982 were launched because of terrorist activity, Shamir said. He said that terrorism is not an Israeli or British problem, recalling the events in Brighton, but rather an international problem. All the democracies must cooperate to defend themselves against terrorism. Sir Geoffrey expressed his agreement to the establishment of such cooperation.

The two ministers then discussed Lebanon. Yitzhaq Shamir explained that it is necessary to have a Syrian understanding — through either direct or indirect contacts — and to reach an arrangement with the Syrians. He expressed the hope that this understanding will be reached in the near future, enabling the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon.

The British secretary told his Israeli counterpart about his meeting yesterday with President Amin al-Jumayyil in Beirut. He said that the Lebanese are aware of Israel's security demands.

As for the Middle East peace process, Yitzhaq Shamir said that Europe has a role to play not in raising new ideas for the area, but in motivating and urging the different parties to hold negotiations. The British secretary expressed interest in the invitation to King Husayn to join the negotiations. The second working session the ministers will hold this afternoon will be devoted to bilateral issues and to the sale of British arms to Arab countries in the Middle East.

Sir Geoffrey will also confer with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i this afternoon. As will be recalled, Sir Geoffrey served as Chancellor of the Exchequer before entering the Foreign Office. Howe will also hold meetings at the Knesset building with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Al-Shuf Druze Demand No Syrian Army Presence

TA271830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Referring to the framework of negotiations with Syria on security arrangements in southern Lebanon, the Druze in the Al-Shuf mountains are demanding that the Syrian Army not be allowed to enter the mountain area. The Druze told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that a Syrian presence would make it impossible for them to keep the Al-Shuf area clear of terrorists.

The defense establishment has refused to react to the report.

Druze Explain Demand

TA280841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The Druze in the Al-Shuf mountains demand that within the framework of negotiations with Syria about security arrangements in southern Lebanon the Syrian Army not be allowed to enter the mountain area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Druze in Israel said that their Al-Shuf brethren demand that this condition, which is to be presented to the Syrians, be the bottom line from Israel's point of view.

[Begin recording] The Druze say it is already possible to feel the violent presence of Syrian intelligence agents in the Al-Shuf. These agents terrorize those who are known as collaborators with Israel. Dr Fadil Mansur of the Israeli Druze Followup Committee, who visited the Al-Shuf last week, says people there are afraid to talk as a result of the Syrian threats. The Syrians are followed by the terrorist organizations, and battles were reported yesterday on the mountain slopes between the Druze and the terrorists who were trying to establish presence there.

A solid Druze canton is good for Israel, the Druze contend, adding that without the absolutely necessary condition which will block the Syrians, we will have difficulty keeping the region free of terrorists and then Israel will again have to send the IDF to the Al-Shuf. Some of the Druze point an accusing finger at Israel, saying that Israel is restraining them; all that is needed, they contend, is another battle or two and a canton can be solidly established: one battle in Suq al-Gharb and another minibattle in Iqlim al-Kharrub. Israel fears that dealing a final blow to the myth of Lebanese unity is untimely and therefore the Druze are still holding back fire.

The defense establishment refused to react to the Druze's position, but remarked that the Druze argument is only 20 percent true. In negotiations over the security arrangements in southern Lebanon, we were told, Israel must take care of its interests only. We have enough domestic pressures and if we take into consideration the aspirations and wishes of the various communities, we will never get out of Lebanon. [end recording]

Naval Patrols Increased off Lebanese Coast

TA271932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The terrorists who have returned to Beirut are currently controlling the coast off West Beirut as far south as the refugee camps. This week they opened fire on an Israeli Navy vessel that was patrolling near the Beirut coastline. Over the past few weeks the Navy has increased patrols off the coasts following warnings that the terrorists are planning to enter Israel via the sea to carry out attacks.

IDF Denies Exchange of Fire Near Khaldah

TA281030 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Israeli vessels exchanged fire with the armed forces near the Khaldah coast south of Beirut, Radio Free Lebanon reported last night. This coast is controlled by the Shi'ite militia Al-Amal, whose leader Birri yesterday threatened to transfer the area under attack from southern Lebanon to the heart of Israel.

The IDF has denied the report.

Cost of Lebanon War Said To Reach $2.7 Billion

TA281723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid has disclosed that the direct financial cost of the war in Lebanon has reached $2.7 billion. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that so far the defense establishment has refrained from issuing an official report on the cost of the war. MK Sarid says this is double the foreign currency reserves in Israel's coffers. He believes it is vital for the public to know and realize, precisely at a time of such a horrible economic crisis, the price paid for a voluntary war.

Attack on Arab-Owned Bus Kills 1, Injures 10

TA281425 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1416 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] One person was killed in the explosion that occurred less than an hour ago on an Arab bus on the Hebron highway in Jerusalem. Another person received serious head injuries and a third casualty was wounded in several places, but his condition is described as moderate, according to information given to us by Magen David Adom [Red Shield of David]. As far as we know, the explosion occurred less than an hour ago on an Arab bus that was traveling the Hebron highway, when it passed the Jerusalem Cinematheque. According to Magen David Adom, one person was killed, one was seriously wounded, and others have moderate wounds. The wounded have been taken to the Hadassah-'En Karem hospital.

Revenge Motive Claimed

TA281451 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1447 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] We have more details on the attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem today. A note was found at the site of the incident which said that the attack on the bus was, among other things, in revenge for the murders in Cremisan [monastery where two Israelis were murdered].

Fatah Claims Responsibility

TA281633 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1628 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 Oct (ITIM) — An anonymous phone call was made to the ITIM offices in Tel Aviv this evening, and the caller said he was speaking on behalf of Fatah. He claimed that members of his organization were responsible for the attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem today. They had mistakenly hit an Arab bus rather than an Israeli bus. The man spoke in Hebrew with an Arabic accent.

Peres Expresses Disgust

TA281713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he is disgusted with the attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem today, and added that the Cabinet is determined to combat all forms of terrorism. The Cabinet will take all the necessary measures to apprehend those responsible and will exhaust the legal measures against them, Shim'on Peres said.

Rabin Condemns Attack

TA281744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Another reaction has just reached our desk: This evening Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin condemned the attack on the Arab bus in Jerusalem today, saying it was a terrible action which had harmed innocent civilians.

Police Holding Three

TA281717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Police are holding three Jews who were arrested immediately after the attack on the Arab bus in Jerusalem today. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that they were detained during a search following the incident.

The name of the passenger killed in the explosion was revealed this evening: He is (Jamal Isma'il al-Matur), aged 20. The Arab bus was hit near Sultan's Pool by a LAW [light anti-tank weapon]

missile. The launcher was found at the foot of the Mishkenot Sha'ananim quarter, with a note nearby saying that the attack was in revenge for the murder of the two Israeli students at Cremisan.

ITIM notes that the LAW is an anti-tank missile used by the IDF's Ground Forces. Eyewitnesses have told ITIM that after the attack they spotted a man fleeing to the wadi running between the Jerusalem Cinematheque and Mt Zion.

So far, five of the eight casualties have been discharged from the hospital. One more wounded victim is still in the hospital, in (Muqasid), East Jerusalem; and two others are in Hadassah-'En Kerem. One of them will probably be released this evening.

Suspects Released

TA281909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] This evening Jerusalem police released the three people who were apprehended shortly after the attack on the bus on the Hebron road today. Meanwhile, anonymous calls have been received in the editorial rooms of various newspapers, claiming that the people will continue to carry out such attacks.

Bar-Lev: Attackers Jewish

TA281627 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1555 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev believes that those responsible for the attack in Jerusalem today are Jewish, and he expressed his confidence that the murderers will be found sooner or later. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan heard Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev's reaction:

[Begin recording] [Bar-Lev] This clearly involves a group, or individuals, or one person who has decided to take the law into his own hands. This act is one that no democratic society can accept, and we will not accept it.

[Dayan] According to the information you already have, does it appear that those responsible for the attack were Jews?

[Bar-Lev] Judging by the document they left at the site — in broken Hebrew, incidentally, full of spelling and syntax mistakes — clearly they are Jews. They claim that since the government is not properly handling the war against Arab terrorism, and since it does not take a grave enough view of Arab killers, they will take action until the government decides to institute capital punishment.

[Dayan] In other words, that note was addressed to you, so what is your answer to this contention?

[Bar-Lev] It is not directed at me personally. It is a declaration. Still, my response, as I said before, is that no Israeli can take the law into his own hands. [end recording]

Bar-Lev Interviewed

TA282036 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by unidentified reporter — live in the studio]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Good evening, Sir.

[Bar-Lev] Good evening.

[Reporter] Has the intelligence community actually been infiltrated by those groups from whom the murderer or murderers are commonly considered to have come?

[Bar-Lev] There is no end to the ability to infiltrate and consolidate by underground terrorist organizations. So, if you ask, the answer is legally, no; but, in any event, I assume that the murderers, in this case, or the murderer, will in the end be put behind bars.

[Reporter] The Jewish underground suspects now being tried have won affection and sympathy from the political establishment. In your view, does this contribute to promoting this kind of activity?

[Bar-Lev] I am not aware that the political establishment — of which I am also a member — that we have exhibited affection and understanding. There may, perhaps, be certain groups, political groups, that are showing sympathy. I certainly think that such support for the underground suspects who apparently did commit acts, and some of them, at least, have already been judged and found guilty, can only encourage extremist elements, unbalanced elements, to acts such as we witnessed this afternoon.

[Reporter] Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen, who condemned the act, nevertheless linked it with the weakness the government is showing in suppressing terrorism in the territories. Rabbi Levinger [Gush Emunim leader] also showed understanding for the reasons for the murder. What is your reaction?

[Bar-Lev] I think these two people are mistaken and are misleading, and their statements certainly can result in more of such acts. The authorities and the government, the security services, the IDF, and the police are doing what is possible to eliminate terrorism, Arab terrorism, and, with quite a large degree of success. We have seen that on these matters there is no "bang, bang, you're dead." The IDF entered Lebanon, it almost reached Beirut, but it did not solve the problem of terrorism. So, to come along and accuse us, I think this is again unbalanced and unjustified.

[Reporter] Rabbi Kahane's reaction was praise for the murderer, a courageous Jew; that is what his movement called the person who committed the deed. Can the law work against a political movement that encourages murder?

[Bar-Lev] I believe the Knesset must legislate a law against racism and define it in such a way that Rabbi Kahane will not be able to take actions or express himself in a form that, at this moment, he can still do without breaking the law. I consider this

urgent and I hope that the Knesset really will legislate such a law immediately.

Link to Earlier Attack Seen
TA290517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Police link the perpetrators of the murderous attack on the Arab bus to an earlier terrorist attack in the old city of Jerusalem last month, when a hand grenade was hurled into an Arab-owned coffeeshop near Hashalshelet Street. At the time, the police believed that this was a criminal act, but a current reexamination of testimonies indicates that skullcap-donned youths were spotted running away.

An organization called the Avengers has assumed responsibility for yesterday's attack. In its written note, it said that its men have the means to continue to strike Arab targets unless the Jewish terror suspects are released immediately, and unless capital punishment is reinstituted for terrorists. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz maintains that those responsible for yesterday's attack are Israelis residing in the country, rather than new immigrants from the United States.

Frayj Urges Punishment
TA281832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Bethlehem's mayor Ilyas Frayj has also condemned the bus attack. He was interviewed a short while ago by Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Frayj] It is a criminal act, committed against innocent civilian people, riding a civilian bus, and it is a very dangerous criminal act. The perpetrators should be severely punished, and I hope that the Israeli authorities will give this criminal attack full serious investigation and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

[Cheslow] What effect do you think this kind of attack will have on the Arab community?

[Frayj] It will increase the division and hatred among the two peoples, and certainly violence breeds violence which all wise men should try to stop and condemn.

[Cheslow] There was a note left at the scene, which said that this was revenge for the killing of two Jewish students by an Arab at the Cremisan Monastery.

[Frayj] This is blind revenge with criminal intent. The general feeling among the Arabs is that a lot of Israeli extremists carry weapons, grenades, rockets, etc., and since they tried to bomb the buses last April they will not hesitate now to commit criminal acts against anybody who tries to oppose them. [end recording]

KAKH Movement Welcomes Attack
TA281946 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The KAKH movement this evening welcomed what it called the act of revenge taken by courageous Jews.

Underground Blames Government
TA281953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The committee supporting the Jewish terrorist organization has accused the government, saying that by its policy it was responsible for the bus attack.

Suspects Reject Statement
TA282046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Eight of the Jewish underground suspects have announced their dissociation from the statement issued in their name by the Committee for the Underground Detainees, in reaction to the attack on the bus. The committee blamed the government for being weak in everything connected with protecting the security of Jews in Judaea and Samaria. The eight detainees, including Ze'ev Friedman and Natan Natanson, heard about this from the Voice of Israel and telephoned our correspondent Shalom Oren to say that the statement was not made with their agreement.

Security Forces on Alert
TA281906 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1855 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Hebron, 28 Oct (ITIM) — The Judaea and Samaria security forces today increased their alertness in order to prevent hostile groups from stirring things up following the incident in which a rocket was fired at a bus traveling from Jerusalem to the Hebron hills.

ITIM reports that dozens of people whose relatives were expected back from Jerusalem gathered at the Hebron bus station. They had heard about the incident on the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language program. They returned home after the names of the casualties of the incident were reported.

Bus Attack Causes West Bank Security Problems
TA290908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0836 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Several cars were struck by stones this morning at the entrance to Bethlehem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several dozen students from Bethlehem University began hurling stones from the student campus at the main entrance to the town. The security forces have closed off the area.

There was a mass gathering of youths this morning in the village of Sir, where the man killed in yesterday's bus attack was buried last night. The crowd later dispersed.

Further Details

TA291133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] A number of vehicles were hit by stones at the main entrance to Bethlehem this morning as scores of students from Bethlehem University stoned passing vehicles with Israeli registrations. Security forces used teargas to disperse the stone throwers and to prevent the disturbances from spreading. Police officers demanded that university heads act to calm the students, but students continued to refuse to enter classes. The stone throwing was seen as a response to yesterday's attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem.

And in the village of Sir, where the victim of the bus attack was buried last night, a large crowd gathered this morning, but dispersed without the security forces having to intervene. With more details on events in Bethlehem this morning, reporter Jerry Cheslow:

Bethlehem University is now surrounded by security forces, after students using slingshots stoned Israeli vehicles on the road nearby. Several dozen students, their faces masked by kaffiyehs, were involved. Security forces arrived at the scene at around 1100 o'clock this morning and used teargas and fired into the air to disperse the disturbance. The students fled into the campus, where they're still holed up.

Israeli officials have asked the university administration to calm tempers inside. There are unconfirmed reports that one student was injured in the leg. How this may have happened is unclear.

Here in Bethlehem there are police roadblocks to keep Israeli vehicles with their yellow license-plates away from areas where they might be stoned. The incidents today undoubtedly are connected with yesterday's attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem. The youth, 20 year old (Jamal Isma'il al-Matur), who was killed on that bus, was buried in his village of Sir near Hebron last night.

Bethlehem Campus Surrounded

TA291224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] The Bethlehem University students are continuing to throw stones, their chief target being the security forces surrounding them. The main road near the university has been reopened to traffic, after cars there were hit by rocks thrown by the students. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces are currently stationed on the rooftops around the university, from where they sporadically fire teargas at the rioting students. The latter caught some of the grenades and threw them back at the security forces.

Students Begin To Disperse

TA291533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] The Bethlehem University students who threw stones from the campus at cars on the main road and at security forces who had surrounded them throughout the day today began leaving this afternoon. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. During the disturbances, it was reported that a student was wounded in the leg when shots were fired as several students tried to break out of the campus to stone border police. So far, however, no wounded student has been taken to a hospital.

Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities in the territories, and Freddy Zak, the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, visited the site at noon. This afternoon Goren visited the Arab who was wounded yesterday when a rocket was fired at an Arab bus in Jerusalem. This is reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Miro.

Ya'aqobi To Submit New Economic Plan

TA281555 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 84 p 3

[Ilan Kfir, Pe'erli Shahar, and Amnon Atad report]

[Excerpt] At the beginning of last week, the government submitted to the Histadrut a new economic plan as a basis for an economic package deal. A senior economic minister said last night: The Zanbar-Gafni plan no longer exists. The government will submit another plan to the Histadrut, whose principles are hoped to be accepted by Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar and by the head of the employers' organization. *HADASHOT* has learned that the new plan which will be submitted to the Histadrut is based on the economic conceptions of Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi.

According to the plan, which was discussed in consultations between Ministers Moda'i and Ya'aqobi, there will be a wage and price freeze for a period to be determined by the government and the Histadrut (probably 3 months), with adjustments in the exchange rates to prevent a foreign currency drain. The principles of the new plan are: a one-third cut in the cost-of-living increment for 1 month, with the option to do so again should the need arise. Wage earners will receive partial compensation by receiving tax credits. The plan also includes a cut in the government's budget, a reform of the income tax system, the possibility of a tax on luxury apartments, and a reduction in the government's activities. According to this plan, employers will be obliged to absorb part of the costs.

At a later stage, the plan includes complementary measures to stabilize the Israeli currency. The shekel may be replaced by a different currency and linked to a stable monetary unit, such as the dollar. This part of the program will not be implemented before the economy has been stabilized. In response to a question by *HADASHOT*, Minister Ya'aqobi refused to give details of the plan, but he said that the government intends to slow down economic activities by ending all linkage systems, which accelerate the pace of price hikes.

The government's decision to drop the Zanbar-Gafni plan is a result of the Histadrut's strong opposition to it. At a meeting yesterday between Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar and Shim'on Peres, the former sharply criticized what the plan means for wage earners. "You are right, I can understand your attitude," Peres said in reaction to Qeysar's remarks.

ALGERIA

Argentina's President Alfonsin Arrives in Algiers

LD270307 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Argentine President Raul Alfonsin arrived in Algiers late this afternoon. The Argentine president, who was welcomed by the head of state Mr Chadli Bendjedid, is accompanied on this working visit by a large delegation, including the minister for the economy and the secretary for external relations. On the Algerian side, also present at the arrival, were members of the Political Bureau, including the official responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee and the prime minister.

The first private talks between the two presidents took place this evening at Villa Jinan al-Mithaq. At the same time there was a meeting between the Algerian and the Argentine delegations.

Alfonsin Makes Statement, Departs

LD270956 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Argentine President Raul Alfonsin left Algiers last night following a short working visit to our country during which he had talks with the FLN secretary general and president of the republic, Chadli Bendjedid, at Villa Jinan al-Mithaq. At the same time the two presidents met privately, talks were being held by the Algerian and Argentine delegations, also at the Villa Jinan al-Mithaq.

President Bendjedid held a banquet in honor of President Raul Alfonin and members of his delegation, attended by members of the FLN Political Bureau, and government and senior state and party officials.

On leaving Algeria last night, the Argentine president made a statement pointing out that the visit provided an opportunity to review matters pertaining to cooperation between the two countries and international issues of common interest, and for exchanging views on problems of development and the future of both countries.

President Alfonsin said: We have started forming a joint committee to deal with all aspects of economic cooperation and development between Algeria and Argentina.

The foreign ministers of the two countries will be meeting within the next few months to make a new fundamental review of bilateral relations between the two countries in a manner which will serve the interests of both countries.

Concluding, he said that his visit to Algeria has also enabled him to review the problems standing in the way of the true independence of the Latin American countries and obstructing the Third World countries' march on the road to development and liberation.

DPRK's Chong Chun-ki Arrives in Algiers

LD281107 Algiers APS in Arabic 0802 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Algiers 28 Oct (APS) — Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Workers Party of Korea Politburo and vice premier of the DPRK, arrived in Algiers Saturday to attend the 30th anniversary of the Algerian revolution.

Paris' LE POINT Interviews President Bendjedid

LD290023 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The head of state granted an interview to the Paris weekly *LE POINT* in which he discussed aspects of Algeria's foreign and economic policies, as well as the situation regarding our emigrants in France.

Replying to a question about the recent visit by the French president to Algiers following his trip to Morocco, President Chadli Bendjedid was anxious to point out that it was not the Moroccan trip itself which raised questions, but the timing of it. He added: President Mitterrand's visit to Algiers allowed us to be given frank explanations and we are satisfied.

As for the protests by certain French circles over Claude Cheysson, minister of external relations, being in Algiers on 1 November, the president of the Republic replied that it was primarily an inter-French problem; he considered it a pity that 22 years after independence, some Frenchmen still do not accept independence. He wondered whether perhaps they were brainwashed by the way in which certain parties revive this problem for simple electioneering reasons. The head of state concluded on this point, however, that these standpoints do not take France's interest into consideration.

On the recent measures taken by the French Government regarding immigration, the President replied: In principle they do not concern us.

However, he expressed his surprise over some decisions which seem to violate a basic right, that of all human beings to live with their families.

On the Moroccan-Libyan union treaty, President Chadli Bendjedid estimated that the circumstances and conditions under which it was concluded, delay the building of the greater Maghreb. On Algerian-Moroccan relations, the head of state reaffirmed that there were absolutely no matters of dispute saying: The only problem in the region is the one which brings the Saharans into dispute with the Moroccans. We are not directly concerned, but if the two sides wish, we are prepared to help them find a solution. The Saharan people should be able to give their view freely on the choice of their future. Whatever solution is adopted, Algeria will respect it.

As for the French-Libyan agreement on Chad, The president said: We encouraged it, as we support the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Chad.

Replying to a question on energy relations with Europe and the

United States, he recalled: These are governed by long-term contracts concluded at negotiations which took the interests of each side into account. The commitments are defined within a long-term perspective which cannot be subjected to fluctuations in circumstances.

Finally, replying to a question on what the journalist termed the main difficulties in Algeria now, President Chadli Bendjedid replied: As a result of a 1980 assessment, some sectors were neglected — in particular agriculture, a sector essential for us today.

The head of state was anxious to point out that it is not the agrarian revolution, but its application to the land which is at fault. He recalled: I was a member of the Revolutionary Council under President Boumediene and I defended the agrarian revolution in an attempt to give the rural world the same opportunities as the Algerians living in the towns.

LIBYA

Al-Turayki Meets With Burkina's Zongo

LD281529 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Dr Ali 'Abd al-Salim al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, this afternoon had a meeting with Captain Henri Zongo, member of the National Council of the revolution and minister of economic development in Burkina Faso who is on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During this meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways and means of promoting and strengthening relations of cooperation for the common good. They also discussed African and international issues of common interest, and discussed intensifying joint efforts to back up the African liberation movement.

Captain Henri Zongo expressed the appreciation and thanks of the people of Burkina Faso for the support and backing that the people of the Jamahiriyah have extended and continue to extend in its confrontation of imperialist conspiracies against the aspirations and options of the people of Burkina Faso.

He said: We appreciate the principled stance of the 1 September Revolution and its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in supporting and backing the African liberation movements, confronting racist regimes, and helping the downtrodden everywhere.

MAURITANIA

AFP: Border Demarcation Discussed With Algeria

AB261345 Paris AFP in French 1114 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Nouakchott, 26 Oct (AFP) — The ministers of interior of Algeria and Mauritania, Mr M'Hamed Yala and Mr Yall Abdoulaye, who signed a document on Thursday in Nouakchott defining the practical modalities for the demarcation of the border between the two countries, reaffirmed on this occasion their countries' attachment to the building of a greater Maghreb and their support for the self-determination of the Western Sahara people.

The demarcation of this border was the subject of an agreement signed last December in Algiers by the Algerian and Mauritanian heads of state.

Mr Yala, who arrived in Nouakchott on Wednesday, was received on Thursday by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, the Mauritanian head of state, to whom he gave a message from his Algerian counterpart, President Chadli Bendjedid. He also visited the project for the fixation of sand dunes 30 km from the capital.

SUDAN

Plot Aimed at 'Foreign Interference' Foiled

JN281456 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Oct (SUNA) — Security organs have discovered a racist, criminal plan led by Filip 'Abbas Ghabbush to create general confusion in the country for the purpose of a premeditated foreign interference. The security organs have arrested Ghabbush and his aides. Some of the aides have confessed that they had received a large amount of financial aid from Libya, that they had received assurances that planes would arrive to support a criminal Ethiopian move, and that they had planned to loot markets and houses to create a state of panic until foreign aid arrived. This afternoon, the Sudanese National Security Council issued the following statement on this conspiracy:

The forces of evil continue their spiteful conspiracy against Sudan and its victorious revolution and historical accomplishments, to weaken stability, the cohesion of the internal front, our national unity, and Sudan's national security.

The National Security Council statement pointed out that the security organs had been long aware of the suspect racial and tribal moves and contacts which sought to inflitrate the People's Armed Forces and other regular forces. The slow and accurate observation resulted in exposing a plot led by Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush aimed at creating general confusion in the country and chaos in the national capital to pave the way for a promised and scheduled foreign interference. Actually, the conspirators had been able to draft a limited number of retired military men and some workers on a racial basis. The patriotism of most of these retired military men and workers urged them to disclose this reckless action.

The statement pointed out that Philip 'Abbas Ghabbush and his aids have been arrested. All those suspected of being involved in this unjust action have also been arrested.

The National Security Council statement said that several of those arrested for receiving a large amount of financial assistance from Libya received promises that they would receive planes to back the alleged Ethiopian move. They also planned to loot shops, groceries, houses, and markets to create a state of confusion and

panic, and to secure their immediate supply needs while waiting for the arrival of assistance from outside.

The statement added that directives were given to quickly complete current investigations of all persons arrested, to bring to trial all those who participated in this criminal act, and to acquit all those who had adopted a sound stand.

The National Security Council ended its statement by saying: This foolhardy move has demonstrated the steadfastness and unity of our Armed Forces and our regular forces and their firm support for the leader of their march, President Muhammad Ja'far Numayri, until the homeland's goals of progress, loftiness, and dignity are attained. [Koranic verse indistinct]

Al-Tayyib Briefs Numayri on Security

JN271505 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri heard a comprehensive report on the progress of work in the state and its utilities, as well as the accomplishments made during his excellency's presence in Egypt to attend the opening session of the Nile Valley Parliament and the hospitalization period that followed. This took place during the president's meeting this morning with retired Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, first vice president and chief of the state security organ.

Later, Maj Gen 'Umar made press statements announcing that security is being maintained in all parts of the country, especially the southern regions. He explained that he informed the president of the results of recent coordination meetings among the ministries and various government departments which dealt with important topics that led to more cooperation and cohesion in the activities of the executive organs.

Maj Gen 'Umar said those meetings also discussed the problems of pasturelands and fodder. He announced that the Ministry of Agriculture will draw up an integrated plan to ensure pastures and provide fodder. He pointed out that more coordination meetings will be held when necessary.

Maj Gen 'Umar announced that this year's corn crop is excellent and exceeds last year's. He said this will have a positive effect that will result in reduced prices and the corn becoming available to all citizens.

Lagu Tells Numayri Equatoria 'Peaceful'

EA281901 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, met at his office in the People's Palace yesterday afternoon with Joseph Lagu, the vice president of the republic. Mr Lagu told the press afterward that he congratulated the president on his recovery and safe return. His excellency added that he presented a verbal report to the president about the special tour he recently made to the Equatoria Region and confirmed that the region is peaceful. Concerning the supply situation, his excellency said that there are shortages in sorghum supplies in Equatoria.

Numayri Receives Message From Algeria's Bendjedid

JN271545 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjeded. President Numayri received the message this morning when he received the Algerian president's envoy to Numayri, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Boualem Bessaih. Also present were Hashim 'Uthman, Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, and the Algerian ambassador in Khartoum.

Following the meeting, Hashim 'Uthman made a press statement in which he said that the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them as well as African issues, especially those to be discussed during the African summit conference that will be held in Addis Ababa in November. The Algerian envoy also said that during the meeting they exchanged opinions about some African and Arab issues of mutual interest, praising the president's response during the meeting.

The president asked the Algerian envoy to convey a reply message to his brother President Chadli Bendjedid. Bousalem Bessaih arrived in Khartoum yesterday morning.

Numayri Receives Cable From Cairo Conference

JN271514 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA) — Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, supreme commander of the People's Armed Forces, has received a cable from the Constituent Conference for Popular Organizations currently being held in Cairo. The cable was sent by 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, the president of the conference.

The cable stressed the support of the Nile valley masses with all their energy and potential for their Armed Forces, the shield that protects the valley's security and safety. The conference also confirmed its deep belief that the Armed Forces in the Nile valley will remain a defender of our Arab nation and the issues of liberation against the treacherous and imperialist forces on the African Continent.

The conference also listened to a comprehensive report on the Nile valley's national security strategy with its interrelated dimensions and discussed the People's Armed Forces' leading role in the Nile valley against the aggressive forces trying to deal a blow to the gains of the Nile valley. The conference then extended a greeting of appreciation for the heroic, combatant role that our forces, the vanguard of the Nile valley people in struggle and work, are playing.

'Uthman Receives Message From Jordan's Al-Masri
JN271724 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman received the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Khartoum today. During the meeting, 'Uthman received a message from Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri dealing with the Arab situation.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Mzali Returns From Asian Tour
LD272138 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and interior minister, returned to Tunis a short while ago after visits to Japan, China, and Korea and short visits to Bahrain and Kuwait.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: Abdelaziz on African Tour, Military
LD282358 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario, gave an interview to APS in which he discussed the political and military situation in the Western Sahara in light of the upcoming 20th OAU summit and recent discussions in the UN which have once again demonstrated that the international community is committed to the independence of the Saharan people.

Concerning the political situation, the SDAR president talked about his recent 14-country tour of Africa. In this regard, Mohamed Abdelaziz explained that his tour allowed him to examine the increasing agreement on the Saharan issue on the part of the peoples and leaders of the African Continent. Mohamed Abdelaziz also discussed efforts made toward building the greater Arab Maghreb. He stressed that in his view, the agreement on a union between Morocco and Libya is unacceptable. On the same issue, he praised Algeria for its firm and unyielding support for the peoples struggling for their freedom, with the Saharan people at the forefront.

Concerning Morocco's continued failure to recognize the rights of the Saharan people, the Saharan president pointed out that the Moroccan regime is similar to the Pretoria and Tel Aviv administrations, which occupy the lands of peoples struggling for their freedom and independence and which reject and despise regulations of international organizations.

Concerning the military position in the Saharan arena, Mohamed Abdelaziz stressed that in recent years the clear military superiority of the Saharan people's liberation army against the Moroccan forces on the battlefield has been clearly displayed. The Saharan president added: Since last June we have conducted our military operations on a broad front from southern Morocco to Dakhla.

He pointed out that more than four large-scale military operations are implemented daily against the 150,000 soldiers of the Moroccan Army in the Western Sahara.

At the end of his interview, the Saharan president said that the greater Arab Maghreb offensive which began on 13 October has shown Morocco and the others that the wall of shame will be no obstacle to the Saharan people's liberation army.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Briefed on Drought; Visits Areas

EA271646 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Our comrade revolutionary leader has been briefed on the various activities and studies carried out towards effecting the implementation of the resolutions and programs laid down by the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee Politburo in its recent meeting, together with the implementation of the regular national construction plan. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, was given the briefing yesterday by Comrade Negusie Fanta, WPE Central Committee member and first secretary of the WPE for Welega Region, and Comrade Petros Wantamo, commissioner of the Western Ethiopia Planning Zone Office.

In his briefing, Comrade Negusie gave assurances that the regional WPE office and public and government organizations are better prepared than ever to implement the program to overcome the problems caused by drought.

For his part, Comrade Petros Wantamo pointed out that the Western Ethiopia Planning Zone Office is engaging in the necessary studies in Ilubador and Kefa Regions to ensure the proper utilization of natural resources and to develop the productivity of the people. He added that various working committees have been established to overcome the problems of the drought and that a unit to control the work of these committees had been formed.

Speaking on the occasion, our comrade revolutionary leader pointed out that although there has never been a time when our country has been free of drought, particularly during the past 10 years, efforts have been made to rehabilitate and resettle our compatriots affected by the problem in Tigrai and Welo. He added that the present persistent drought prevailing throughout Africa and in particularly in our country is creating a grave situation for people and livestock.

Our comrade revolutionary leader stated that in looking for an urgent solution to the problem, priority should be given to coordinated work. He gave directives on the work of the iron-ore prospecting project in (Yehudu) area, Gimbi Province in Welega region, which is being carried out with the cooperation of the DPRK. On arrival at (Yehudu) to visit this project, our comrade revolutionary leader was met by Comrade Tekeze-shoa Aytenfiso, WPE Central Committee member and mines, energy, and water resources minister and head of the project.

Our comrade revolutionary leader subsequently went to Gambele in Ilubabor region after inspecting development projects in Nekemte town. On arrival at Gambela town, our comrade revolutionary leader was met by Comrade Simeon Galore, WPE Central Committee member and first secretary of Ilubabor Region WPE Committee; Comrade Animut Kindie, principal administrator of the region; Comrade Petros Wantamo, commissioner of the Western Ethiopia Zone Planning Office, WPE members of the region and provinces; and representatives of public and government organizations.

Continuing his working tour in Gambela, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, as well as listening to briefings today, gave working directives after inspecting development projects. In a briefing at a meeting chaired by our comrade revolutionary leader, Comrade Simeon Galore, Comrade Petros Wantamo, and Comrade Animut Kindie stated that several development projects are being carried out in the region and noted that the necessary studies and preparations have been finished for finding urgent solutions for the drought by setting up settlement and agricultural committees to study and implement the WPE Politburo's resolutions.

During the briefings, the implementation of the directives given by our comrade revolutionary leader on his previous visit to the region and the problems which confronted their implementation were discussed and further directives were given by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam travelled from Gambela to Itang, where he inspected the site set aside for a settlement program and inspected the borehole excavation activities in the area. Comrade Mengistu inspected the Baro-Akobo road staff housing project in Gambela and gave directives on the completion of the work. Our comrade revolutionary leader also inspected the Gambela Hospital.

QNA: Eritrean Official on Recent Battles

GF261642 Doha QNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Doha, 26 Oct (QNA) — An Eritrean official has announced that the comprehensive offensive the Ethiopian forces launched yesterday against the western sector of Eritrea, with the objective of breaking the siege imposed by the Popular Liberation Forces of the Eritrean Front on the cities of Barentu and Aicota for the past 2 weeks, was doomed to failure and did not achieve its objectives.

Mr Mohammed Osman Abu Bakr, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces in the Gulf region, who is currently visiting Doha, said in a statement to QNA that the Popular Liberation Forces in Eritrea repulsed the attack after engaging in savage battles with the attacking forces, who used armored vehicles, helicopters, and heavy artillery. He pointed out that these battles resulted in the attack's failure to achieve its objectives, the killing of 100 Ethiopian soldiers and the capture of 65, and in the seizure of large quantities of arms and ammunition.

He added that the economic situation in Ethiopia is further deteriorating as a result of the continuation of this war, which is costing the Ethiopian economy $1 million a day. He explained that Ethiopia's debts to the Soviet Union alone are $6 million, most of which was spent on purchasing arms.

He said that the cost of a single Cuban soldier present in Ethiopia now is $1,000 a month. He said that 6,000 Cuban soldiers recently withdrew from Ethiopia for financial reasons and because of Ethiopia's inability to continue military expenditures

Mr Abu Bakr demanded Arab and friendly countries provide urgent aid to the Eritrean people currently suffering from famine as a result of the present state of drought and their continuing struggle to liberate their country.

Eritrean Liberation Front Statement on Battle Results

EA271813 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] A statement released today by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front [EPLF] in Mogadishu, says that the heroic combatants of the front, liberated the town of (Tikombia) east of Teseni on 24 October from the enemy Abyssinians. The intrepid forces of EPLF also encircled an estimated two battalions of the enemy Abyssinian forces defending the town. The battle raged for 5 hours and the EPLF fighters killed or wounded 400 Abyssinian troops. The EPLF fighters took 105 Abyssinian soldiers prison and seized huge quantities of heavy and light arms. At the same time they set fire to Abyssinian tanks and other heavy weapons. The report adds that the EPLF fighters, now in full control of the town, are hotly pursuing remnants Abyssinian troops who fled the town.

SOMALIA

AFP: Hargeisa, Berbera Cut Off, Under Curfew

NC271734 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Djibouti, Oct 27 (AFP) — Somalia's second city of Hargeisa and two other northern towns have been cut off from the rest of the country and placed under curfew, travellers arriving at this Red Sea port said today, apparently confirming recent claims of attacks issued by the Somali opposition. The reports, from travellers who had left the region by air, suggested a more serious struggle between government forces and the opposition than even opposition sources had so far indicated, observers said.

from 6:00 pm till 5:00 am.

for the past week, they said, adding that traffic in the opposition [illegible] near the Somalian localities of Garissa and Borama. Road traffic in the region was only being allowed under Army escort, the travellers added.

The opposition Radio Halgan (struggle) claimed on Thursday that forces of the Somali National Movement (SNM) had cut the highway. The travellers also reported that there had been heavy fighting near Hargeisa in recent days, again confirming an earlier SNM claim.

Radio Halgan Reports Battle Gains in Northern Town

EA272323 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces launched a two-sided attack on the villages of (Calixayd) and (Agabar) in Hargeisa District, northwest region, on 20 October. The SNM units completely overran the enemy base at (Calixayd) and crushed the regime soldiers based there. The fighters killed four soldiers and wounded 10 others. The fighters who launched the attack returned to their base safely with victory.

The intrepid fighters of the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces attacked the loyalist Barre troops stationed at (Kalabayr) village in Gabiley District, northwest region on 21 October killing five soldiers and wounding 12 others. The SNM fighters lost one martyr.

Other reports from the SNM say the intrepid SNM fighters have the upper hand in all encounters and managed to cut off the roads linking Hargeisa-Borama, Borama-Jibuti, and Hargeisa-Berbera. The SNM fighters also blew up one vehicle at (Aabato) village on the road linking Hargeisa and Arabsiyo. The reports add that leaflets carrying accounts of the crimes committed by the Barre regime and the objectives and aims of the armed struggle by the Somali community against the fascist regime of Mogadishu have been scattered in all the streets of Hargeisa

CHAD

Further on French Troop Withdrawal

Troops Quit Abeche, Moussoro

AB281040 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Oct 28 (AFP) — French forces in Chad today resumed their withdrawal, pulling out of Abeche, 760 kilometers (475 miles) east of here, the spokesman for the French contingent said. The French are withdrawing their troops from Chad, where they have been supporting the Ndjamena government of Hissein Habre since August last year, under an agreement with Libya, which has been backing rebels holding the north of the country.

Last week French forces evacuated Moussoro, 280 kilometers (175 miles) north of here and Biltine, 850 kilometers (530 miles) to the northeast, on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively, before an informed source said they had suspended their retreat after doubts that Libya was keeping to the agreement. The French spokesman said today that the garrison was still in place in Ati, 450 kilometers (280 miles) east of here.

The spokesman refused to comment on allegations yesterday by Mr Habre's Army Commander-in-Chief Idriss Deby that the Libyans were still present in force at Fada in northeastern Chad and were preparing an offensive against Ndjamena government forces.

Chadian fears have been heightened here since the breakdown yesterday of reconciliation talks in Brazzaville between the Habre government and other factions, including the Libyan-backed Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of former President Goukouni Oueddei. The French spokesman said French troops were continuing to cross the Chari River from Ndjamena into neighboring Cameroon for eventual shipment to France from the Cameroonian port of Douala.

Positions Near Ndjamena Vacated

AB291010 Paris AFP in French 0941 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 29 Oct (AFP) — French forces in Chad withdrew Monday morning from the last positions they still occupied outside Ndjamena, in the Ati area, about 450 km east of the Chadian capital, it was learned from informed sources in Ndjamena. Interviewed by AFP, a spokesman of the Manta Force confirmed "the total withdrawal on Monday morning" from Ati, where a squadron of AMX-10 tanks (canon wheels) [roues-canon], a detachment of the 17th Regiment of Paratroopers Engineering Regiment, and a detachment of the Army light aviation (Alat) were stationed.

Asked further on the Libyan "observers," whose arrival in Ndjamena on Monday was announced by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, the French military spokesman said he had "no information" on that subject.

Army Chief Says Libyans Still 'Present in Force'

AB271434 Paris AFP in French 1335 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 27 Oct (AFP) — Libyan troops are still present in force in Fada (northeastern Chad), where they are preparing an offensive against Chadian Government forces situated more than 200 km south, Idriss Deby, commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces told AFP on Saturday.

"Not a single Libyan unit has left Fada, according to the information we have," Idriss Deby observed. "On the other hand,"he added, "the Libyans are reported to have left Faya-Largeau (northern Chad), from where they reportedly have withdrawn some tanks, but we do not have any proof of this." Idriss Deby also said in the same interview with AFP that "as soon as the French left" the Libyan Army would prepare an attack on Chadian Government forces.

Asked about the withdrawal of French forces, Idriss Deby described that departure as "premature," in spite of French assurances that the agreement concluded between Paris and Tripoli on 16 September 1984 had "sufficient guarantees." In any case, it is out of the question that we remain arms folded [words indistinct] "part of our country is occupied."

The commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces also mentioned the defection Friday of 15 "allied" soldiers (Chadian opposition backed by Libya) to the government forces. These defectors, who were based in Fada, had said that there had been recent armed clashed between Libyan forces and the "allied" forces, which turned to the disadvantage of the allied forces, he added.

Asked further on the Brazzaville meeting and the resultant possible reconciliation among Chadians, the head of the Chadian Armed Forces indicated that Ndjamena "has no illusions" about the outcome of the meeting because, he said, "the Libyans are bent on blowing it up."

Defectors on Libyan Intentions

AB281540 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Libya does not intend to leave the Chadian soil, according to a group of patriots called Group 2 based in Fada, who have decided to join the legal government of Chad. The 14-member group defected to the Chadian National Armed Forces at Oum Chalouba. We had an opportunity to talk to these compatriots here at the radio station last night, and from what they told us, we have gotten an idea of the type of life Chadians living in occupied areas are leading.

Before you listen to what they told us last night, I would like to present the 14 members of the group, including five leaders and nine soldiers. They are: (Sidi Abdel) Cherfardin, deputy commander of Group 2; (Sarl Salif), squadron commander; Mahamat Husein, commander of the second company; Ahmat Issa, adviser of the squadron; and (Adbelim Salam), secretary general of Group 2. The nine soldiers who decided to accompany them are: (Moussa Deterin) Hamda Ibrahim, Ibrahim Idriss, Abubakar

Issa, Salou Abakar, Halabo Yinit, Issif Abdaghan, and Alghan Abdoul. Group 2 is based in Fada.

In an interview they said: We have decided to join the legal government of Chad because we could no longer cope with Libya's actions, which are based primarily on the dismantling of institutions of the Chadian state. We realized that we were being used as instruments of this diabolic game and that is why we decided to come back to the legal Government of Chad.

Continuing, Cherfardin said: What Libya wants is even more serious, because Libya wants to use Chad as a stepping-stone for a larger-scale action — the destabilization of Chad's neighboring states from Chadian territory once Chad comes under its control. You will therefore understand, he went on, that in this vast Libyan design of destabilization, annexation, and expansion, Chadians living in occupied territories do not represent anything in the eyes of the Tripoli authorities.

In the occupied territories, the Libyans believe they are superior to Chadians and consider Chadians slaves. [Words indistinct] according to the commander of Group 2, the rejection of the Libyans was recently demonstrated when disagreements and clashes erupted among elements of the same group and this is because Libya tried [words indistinct] when elements of the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] disagreed with the creation of a government that Libya could easily manipulate. The CDR was therefore expelled from that puppet government, or at least those elements of the CDR in Acheikh Ibn Oumar's group, and we did not accept such an action.

The commander added that since then they have had no news about the whereabouts of Acheikh Ibn Oumar, adding: We do not know whether he is alive or dead. Another indication of the climate of tension within the CDR group is the scuffle that broke out between Abdel Rahman Hamdane [GUNT minister of information] and Rhakis Manani [GUNT minister of defense] — a scuffle that left the two young men wounded. This information has just confirmed what we already know.

Sidi Abdel Cherfadin also spoke about the Franco-Libya disengagement agreement. It was with a lot of irony that he spoke about this Libyan withdrawal. He said: Never have the Libyans expressed the least sign of leaving Chad, adding: The Libyans have no intention of leaving the Chadian soil.

Libyan Observers To Arrive in Ndjamena

NC281304 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Paris, Oct 28 (AFP) — Libyan observers monitoring the withdrawal of French troops from Chad will arrive in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena tomorrow, [words indistinct] Cheysson said here today. Mr Cheysson said on French television that French planes had arrived in Libya to fly the observers to Ndjamena. He added that the withdrawal of both Libyan and French forces from Chad under the mid-September agreement between Paris and Tripoli was continuing "as planned," but the dispatch of observers from both sides would enable the evacuation to be followed better.

GUNT Factions Reported Fighting in Fada

AB281430 Paris AFP in French 1406 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Paris, 28 Oct (AFP) — Armed clashes erupted between several elements of the forces of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] (armed opposition to President Hissein Habre) in Fada (north-eastern Chad) within the past 48 hours leaving several of them dead and wounded, Chadian Ambassador to France Allam-Mi Ahmad state today in Paris. He told AFP that news of these clashes was revealed by several top military leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), one of the main components of the GUNT, about 15 of whom have defected to the Ndjamena forces at Oum Chalouba-Kalait (eastern Chad), the ambassador stated.

According to the defectors, among whom are people like Abdel Aziz Cherfadin, [words indistinct] respectively the number two and military adviser and commader of the Fada group, the present minister of defense of the GUNT, Rhakis Manani, and Hamdane Abderaman, minister of information, have been wounded, the ambassador said. Allam-Mi Ahmad stated that these defectors confirmed that instead of the Libyan troops withdrawing, they are reinforcing and (?camouflaging) outside areas behind the hills.

'Agitators' Caused GUNT Shoot-out

AB290748 Paris AFP in English 0726 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Niamey, Oct 29 (AFP) — Chadian rebel forces denied reports Sunday that two top aides of ousted Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, who controls northern Chad with Libyan support, had been wounded in a factional shoot-out at the north-eastern rebel-held oasis of Fada. The rebel Radio Bardai, heard here, said the incident, reported Sunday by the Chadian ambassador in Paris, had been exaggerated. A group of "splittist agitators" had fired on a meeting called to discuss reorganization of the Goukouni forces due to the current Franco-Libyan military withdrawal from Chad and the fire had been returned, it said.

Several people had been arrested while others had fled, according to the radio, to join the forces of Chadian President Hissein Habre. A number of people had been wounded but Mr Goukouni's defence minister, Rhakis Manani, and Information Minister Hamdane Abderaman, were not among them. Chadian Ambassador to Paris Allam-Mi Ahmad had said the two ministers had been wounded and several people killed in the shootout, which he said had occurred within the past two days.

Ndjamena Comments on GUNT Stance at Congo Talks

AB270942 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] So the Brazzaville talks have stumbled over conditions put forward by a group called GUNT [Transitional National Union Government]. Its conditions are the following: the recognition of the legitimacy of the so-called GUNT to the detriment of all other opposition factions. [Words indistinct] some of the

opposition parties that the GUNT is fighting have been making proposals, expressing their positions on procedural matters. In short, people have been speaking about a transition in Chad.

In principle, Chadians have the right to talk about their country, make proposals for some improvements in the country, thus contributing more or less toward the national life. After all, each citizen is a politician, different from the bad meaning given to the word, which is made only to mean a man with political power. In fact, every citizen who loves his country has every right to express ideas likely to contribute to the enhancement of Chad, especially at this time when the state of our country is in such a bad shape, all that is wanted is everybody's contribution. That is why the idea of holding the Brazzaville talks would not have come at a better time.

Apart from any political quarrels, it is important to note the total lack of seriousness of some opposition groups at the Brazzaville talks. In any organized society, or one which wants to be regarded as such, there are limits beyond which one cannot go. Before undertaking anything within a given framework the national political realities should be taken into account and any political ambition should be avoided. What then are these political realities?

This framework is, in the first place, a political structure which needs to be organized in this case. A representative government appointed by a qualified authority without considering any factions has been existing in Chad since June 1982, and more precisely since October of the same year. Now, let's take a close look at what the government is today, compared with what it was in the past, that is when the GUNT was in power.

As I have just said, nowadays a qualified authority appoints the members of the executive, which is completely different from the then misconceived system in which any changes or reforms at any level were subjected to an individual. The one who was then called president of the republic was just there to receive grievances sent in by the various factions represented within what was known as the Transitional National Union Government, that is anarchy, force, and pressure, which were swept away on 7 June and replaced by the Third Republic 5 months later.

Still, in its efforts to find a working framework befitting a modern state, Chad's Third Republic has an Army, an Army that is completely different from what existed before, and its structure and composition reflect the Chadians' aspirations. Let us have a closer look at it. Concerning the troops, the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] are made of patriotic forces who have readily come to terms in order to defend the nation. Thus, when the then Northern Armed Forces [FAN] captured Ndjamena, the FAT [Chadian Armed Forces] joined the liberation forces in order to complete the task of defending the country wherever destabilization threat can arise.

What the pro-Libyan opposition has laid down as conditions at the Brazzaville meeting are false problems. In the absence of well-founded objections and a clear assessment of the situation in Chad, they are trying to question a clear legitimacy even though this legitimacy has never been a stumbling block for dialogue. The fact is that the opposition camp is not sincere. In Brazzaville, we believe, a framework must be created for talks based on Chad's actual problems, namely the occupation of Chad by foreign forces, which plan to remain there, and the risk of division leading to the transformation of Chad into independent zones described as a federation, a confederation and such.

Now, what is needed in the first place is to do everything to save Chad. Saving Chad first requires agreement to hold negotiations. This is because to implement any program concerning the form of the state it is necessary for Chadians to hold discussions in a framework allowing the people to express their free will. What the other camp would like to do, however, is to restore the factions in their traditional zones of influence, to further divide the people and maintain the status quo. When we hear in Brazzaville the opposition saying either us or nothing else, we wonder what positive achievement that group can make in Chad. Chad is not a group; it is not a single entity. It is the result of a national compromise safeguarding the achievements of the state. It is a policy that goes beyond the [words indistinct] wrangling, which was ineffective during the GUNT era.

CONGO

Chad Talks Stalemated Amid Charges, Allegations

Talks Adjourned 'Indefinitely'

AB280740 Paris AFP in English 0710 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Oct 28 (AFP) — Talks aimed at ending Chad's years-long civil war collapsed here Saturday over insistence by the Ndjamena regime of Hissein Habre that it be first recognised by participants as the country's legal government.

The head of one of the Chadian political-military factions taking part in the week of discussions, Tourgoudi Ouchar of the Action and Coordination Committee (CAC), said in a Congolese television interview that the Habre delegation had come to the conference only "to get themselves anointed" and had not been interested in "the real problems."

Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba adjourned the talks indefinitely Saturday after several days of deadlock over the recognition issue. He said there would be other meetings after "temporary separation," but the path to peace in the "complex Chadian tragedy" was "necessarily long" and required "patient effort." He urged Chadian politicians to think of the "martyred Chadian people" who were "expecting much" from the national reconciliation talks at Brazzaville, and said Congo was available at all times to help the peace process. The failure of the talks became likely on Friday when the Habre delegation and their main rivals, the Libyan-backed forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei, accused each other of preparing to resume the civil war once the mutual Libyan-French troop withdrawal, now under way, was completed.

Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou charged that Libyan troops had been on the alert in northern Chad for two days and that the Goukouni forces hoped to be in Ndjamena by December. He was echoed Saturday by the commander-in-chief of Mr Habre's Armed Forces, Idriss Deby, speaking in Ndjamena.

Adoum-Yacoub Kougou, a top foreign policy aide to Mr Goukouni, denied the charges and said Ndjamena was "preparing aggression." The smaller faction leaders, such as Mr Tourgoudi Ouchar, were unable to break the recognition deadklock between the Habre and Goukouni forces.

Libyans Said On Alert

AB261815 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Oct 26 (AFP) — The Chadian national reconciliation talks remained deadlocked here today, with each side bitterly accusing the other of blocking progress, and Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou accusing the Libyans of putting their troops on alert in the north of the country. Mr Lassou, who is heading the delegation of the French-backed Ndjamena Government at the talks, charged that "Libyan troops have been on alert on the northern front for the last two days."

However Adoum Yacoub, head of the delegation of the Libyan backed Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), the main opposition group, dismissed the charge as a "total lie." He said the charge was in fact an "advance justification for the act of aggression which Ndjamena is about to commit."

The deadlock in the talks, which began here in the Congolese capital on Saturday, has raised fears of a new flare-up in Chad's civil war, which has been going on intermittently for the last 17 years. The Ndjamena delegation today renewed its demands for the "conference framework" to be defined as "a meeting between the legitimate government of President Hissein Habre and its oppositions." But the GUNT delegation said it denied the Ndjamena government the right to lay down "any pre-conditions whatsoever" concerning the organization of the conference.

The GUNT, headed by Goukouni Oueddei, the man Mr Habre ousted as president in June 1982, claims it remains the legitimate government of the country.

In another exchange with the GUNT delegation, Mr Lassou charged that "reinforcements from Benin of the Islamic Legion have been requested by the GUNT" in the northern part of Chad. The Islamic Legion is an international force formed by Libya, and which has reportedly been supporting the Libyan-backed GUNT forces, who control the mainly-desert north of the country. "Tripoli has given assurances that the GUNT will be in Ndjamena between now and December," Mr Lassou added. "We are being attributed warlike intentions while we are here to make peace," Mr Yacoub replied.

Mr Yacoub then accused the Ndjamena delegation of "going back on its promise to lay down absolutely no preconditions" to the holding of the talks. The Chadian delegation's behaviour was a "pathetic spectacle," he added. "President Goukouni Oueddei can be in Brazzaville within 72 hours to talk peace with Hissein Habre," Mr Yacoub added. To this Mr Lassou replied: "President Habre takes orders from no-one. He is not a puppet of the Libyans like Goukouni."

Daily conference sessions are now only lasting two hours, and are wholly taken up with discussion of the framework of the talks. However, both the delegations stressed that they would stay in Brazzaville for as long as it took to obtain an agreement.

Meanwhile, one of the nine smaller opposition groups at the talks, the Revolutionary and Democratic Council (CDR), which recently split off from the GUNT, today accused the Ndjamena delegation of "blocking the conference." The Congolese hosts have been making "final efforts to break the deadblock," a reliable source said here.

Meanwhile, it was still unclear today when Libyan and French observers, who are to monitor the withdrawal of their two countries' remaining troops in Chad would take up their positions there. Reports yesterday from Lagos said the arrival of a French team in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, where a Franco-Libyan commission is sitting, had been delayed for 24 hours from yesterday. It was also reported from Ndjamena yesterday that the pull-out of French troops, begun on September 25, had been halted for 5 days to allow the observers to take up their positions.

GUNT Says Charges 'Fallacious'

AB271017 Paris AFP in French 0902 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 26 Oct (AFP) — Libyan troops have been "put on the alert for the past 2 days on the northen front, "Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou said at a press conference on Friday in Brazzaville where the meeting among Chadians was still deadlocked.

Adoum Yacoub, leader of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] delegation (backed by Libya) immediately retorted that this "totally fallacious" statement was aimed at "justifying" in advance "an act of aggression that Ndjamena is preparing to commit."

On their part, the Congolese, organizers of the meeting [words indistinct] "last attempt to take the meeting out of its present deadlock."

On Friday, Ndjamena once again insisted that the conference should be defined as "a meeting of the legitimate government of President Hissein Habre and his opponents," whereas the GUNT rejects "any preconditions whatsoever." The minister of foreign affairs from Ndjamena added that "the GUNT had asked for reinforcement from Beninese elements of the Islamic Legion" and that "Tripoli assured the GUNT that it will be in Ndjamena by December."

"We are credited with war intentions but we are here to make peace," Adoum Yacoub, the GUNT envoy retorted. "Of course we want to be in Ndjamena as soon as possible, but through peaceful means, and that is why we are here," he added. Turning then to a "colonel" who was speaking Arabic, Mr Yacoub jokingly asked him whether his troops were "on the alert." "Ndjamena did not come here for peace," Mr Yacoub again said, stressing that Hissein Habre's government did not respect its undertaking "not to put forward any preconditions."

"President Goukouni Oueddei could be in Brazzaville within the next 72 hours to discuss peace with Hissein Habre," added the

GUNT envoy. Hissein Habre's foreign minister replied that "President Habre does not receive orders from anybody, since he is not a puppet of the Libyans like Goukouni."

Asked about his desire to make concessions, Mr Lassou replied: "what concessions? Are the unity, sovereignty, and independence of our country, or the state institutions negotiable?"

The two main factions, however, stated [words indistinct] and to make the opponent "to hear the voice of reason."

On the possible "rallying of opponents" Gouara Lassou stated: "Rallying is a shocking word, but we are prepared to discuss the modalities for the return of people who want to return to their country, people who want to return honestly."

On Thursday, Acheikh Ibn Oumar, representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Council in his speech, blamed the Ndjamena delegation for "blocking the conference" by insisting on being recognized as a government delegation.

The conference was expected to resume on Friday but only for a single session of 2 hours to discuss the procedure for holding the debates. The Congolese mission that went to Ndjamena on Wednesday returned the same day, according to reliable sources, appearently without any success.

Envoy Blames GUNT for Deadlock

LD281632 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Excerpts] We wanted to believe in it. Rumors even mentioned a few positive points, points on which the Chadian parties present in Brazzaville to seek a reconciliation came close. In fact, the peace negotiations have failed a week after the conference began. Last night the delegates parted certainly after deciding to meet again, but at a date which was not announced. The deadlock thus noted is reported to have come once again from the issue of legitimacy in Chad, an issue which had already brought about the failure of the last OAU summit. On the phone from Brazzaville is our correspondent, Gabriel Martin:

[Martin] A commentator on official Congo television expressed the belief that the deadlock was a result of Ndjamena's demand that it be recognized as the legitimate government of Chad. It was obviously also the impression on Saturday evening of several of the small Chad factions present in Brazzaville. The Congolese commentator, however, stressed that the mere fact of having brought together the rival Chadian factions for the first time since the Lagos meeting in 1979, was already a success, and indeed the beginning of the conference last Saturday had revived some hope.

There was [word indistinct], an incident at the first working session, but the meetings on Monday and Tuesday went off in a calm atmosphere. It is too good to be true, a Chadian told us. Then on Tuesday, the Ndjamena delegation put very strict limits on the meeting, which it considered to be a meeting of the government of President Habre with its opponents. It asserted the existence of a fait accompli in Chad — the third republic and its institutions, notably the Army — and added, this is not negotiable.

Since then, the conference had been an empty affair. Among the delegates, skepticism took the place of the optimistic hopes at the beginning. The Congolese tried taking various steps, notably in the direction of President Habre, but without success.

[Announcer] From Paris we have tried to obtain some explanations on the failure of this Brazzaville meeting, thus the Chadian ambassador in Paris, Ahmad Allam-Mi, replied to our questions. We have seen, as Gabriel Martin has just told us, certain groups are accusing Ndjamena of being responsible for the deadlock in the Brazzaville talks. Listen to the reply of Mr Allam-Mi speaking on the telephone to Danielle Lefebvre:

[Begin recording] [Allam-Mi] It is [words indistinct] inadmissible to put this responsibility on the Chadian Government. The Chadian Government did not go to Brazaville to demand any certificate of legitimacy. It is rather the representative of the Bardai group, Mr Adoum Yacoub [words indistinct] who has set a precondition (?at every stage) of the negotiations, a precondition that is quite impossible. He asked the Chadian Government to renounce, publicly, as he said, and without ambiguity, its own legitimacy. Knowing that this is an impossible condition, Mr Adoum Yacoub set this down, precisely with the aim of blocking the negotiations and, if there is a deadlock, the responsibility for it lies with Bardai, not Ndjamena.

[Lefebvre] Mr Ambassador, in the face of what has just happened at Brazzaville, would Ndjamena by any chance not allow a further postponement of the Franco-Libyan withdrawal?

[Allam-Mi] Ndjamena did not sign this agreement, to ask for a further postponement... it is up to the parties concerned, notably France and Libya, to see what postponements must be made if this agreement is not carried out. But I believe that it is an agreement, which I understand (?from what I have seen) to be a final agreement, and there is no way of changing it. The postponement of 45 days, which began on 25 September, has been exceeded. The rest [words indistinct] parties to find out whose responsibility it is. [end recording]

[Announcer] Furthermore the Chadian ambassador recalled the fighting which is reported to have taken place yesterday evening in the area of Fada, fighting in which there were clashes between the forces of the different groups making up the GUNT. We are at present trying to obtain a reaction on all these issues from the GUNT.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

PRC To Set Up Fishing Equipment Company

AB271451 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] (Pedro Vallerma Igingono), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources and Fisheries, has held a working session with (Li Yangjiang), economic adviser at the PRC

Embassy in Malabo. During the session, the two officials examined issues related to a preparatory meeting aimed at setting up a China-Guinea joint fishing equipment company.

ZAIRE

Mobuto Denies Allegations of Coup Attempt

NC281835 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Paris, Oct 28 (AFP) — Zairean president Mobutu Sese Seko today denied allegations by former Prime Minister Nguza Karl-i-Bond that the Kinshasa government had survived a coup attempt earlier this month, the Zairean News Agency (AZAP) reported in a dispatch monitored here. In the first official reaction to reports of an attempted coup, Marshal Mobutu told a rally in the Zairean capital that the rumours of a putsch were "a pure campaign of disinformation," AZAP said.

Mr Nguza, one of the leaders of the exiled opposition to Marshal Mobutu, said last Tuesday in Brussels that the coup attempt was uncovered by "the intelligence services of certain foreign countries" active in Zaire. He did not say what states were reportedly involved in the putsch. His statement, issued through the Belga news agency, alleged that several arrests had been made in the Armed Forces and security services and that a news blackout had been ordered on the affair.

Mr Nguza's allegations followed reports of Army unrest in Zaire, which were later denied by the country's information minister. The reports surfaced in the wake of an announcement October 12 that Marshal Mobutu was to make a surprise inspection of all the nation's military bases. Referring to the inspection tour, President Mobutu was quoted as saying his visits to Army garrisons had "nothing to do with the fantastic rumours being spread from abroad."

Mobutu Warns of 'Deceptive Measures' of Foreigners

AB281515 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1440 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Oct (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the Popular Movement of the Revolution (MPR) and president of the republic, warned all Zairians, in particular those living in Kinshasa, not to pay attention to the false rumors and deceptive measures undertaken by foreigners who want to distract them in their march toward national progress. Marshal Mobutu issued the warning at the People's Palace following a ceremony during which the population offered him gifts in the wake of his visit to the district of the capital to thank the population for his reelection as leader of the country. He also called on the Kinshasa population to always keep the city clean.

Briefs

Envoys Present Letters — President Mobutu Sese Seko on Friday received the letters of credence of Luiz Delgado Perez, new Cuban ambassador to Zaire, and Yitzhaq Sarfati, new Israeli ambassador to Zaire. [Excerpt] [*Kinshasa AZAP in French 1310 GMT 26 Oct 84 AB*]

Reportage on 10th CEAO Summit in Bamako

Niger President To Attend

AB270902 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, will leave Niamey this morning for Bamako where he will attend the summit conferences of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] and the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD].

Senegalese President To Attend

AB270903 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] The president of the republic will leave Dakar this morning at 0930 for Bamako. The head of state is leading the Senegalese delegation to the summit of the heads of state and government of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] and the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD] between the six member states of the CEAO and Togo.

French, Ivorian Ministers Arrive

AB271445 Paris AFP in French 1343 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Bamako, 27 Oct (AFP) — Christian Nucci, French minister for cooperation and development, arrived in Bamako on Saturday on board the plane of Simeon Ake, the Ivorian foreign minister who will represent President Felix Houphouet-Boigny at the 10th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO).

Other Leaders Arrive

AB271444 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Bamako, 27 Oct (AFP) — The heads of state of Mauritania, Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Haydala; of Burkina Faso, Captain Thomas Sankara; of Niger, Brigadier General Seyni Kountche; and of Senegal, Abdou Diouf, arrived in succession in Bamako on Saturday to attend the 10th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO).

Mali, Burkina, Niger Create Special Committee

AB271341 Paris AFP in English 1004 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Bamako, Oct 27 (AFP) — Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso have agreed to set up a special committee to manage the Niger River basin areas common to the three states, it was announced here. The decision to create the new body was announced after two days of ministerial meetings here yesterday of a special administrative authority set up by the three countries to coordinate development efforts in their shared region of Liptako-Gourma.

A statement issued yesterday said the newly formed Niger basin committee would meet before November 15 to draw up a plan of action to submit to a special ministerial meeting to take place by December 15. During their talks here, the ministers also decided to seek funds for improving roads in the tri-state area. They also named Silimane Ganoua of Niger as the new general director of the Liptako-Gourma Authority, replacing Bakary Toure of Mali.

BURKINA

Lipad Leaders, Former Ministers Arrested

AB290736 Paris AFP in English 0723 GMT 29 Oct 84

[Text] Niamey, Oct 29 (AFP) — Eleven leaders of a leftist party which provided the ideological underpinning for a 1983 coup by Burkina Faso head of state Thomas Sankara were arrested over the weekend, a reliable source said here Sunday.

Among those picked up in the Friday-Saturday night sweep in the Burkinabe capital, Ouagadougou, were four ex-ministers who served in Captain Sankara's first government and who belong to the Patriotic League for Development (LIPAD). They were Arba Diallo (foreign affairs,), Adama Toure (information), Philippe Ouedraogo (supply and communications) and Emmanuel Dadjouari (education and culture). All lost their jobs in a Cabinet reshuffle last August 31. Other Lipad leaders rounded up included Soumane Toure, secretary-general of the Voltan Confederation of Trade Unions (CSV), the source said.

Relations between Capt Sankara and the Marxist-Leninist Lipad began to deteriorate almost immediately after he staged his coup on August 4 last year and named five Lipad Cabinet ministers. The party came into conflict with the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution which were formed nationwide as the base of the regime's power. The quarrel came into the open last May 22 when Youth and Sports Minister Ibrahima Kone, a Lipad member, was sacked after being accused by the committees of "factional and putschist manoeurvres."

Last August, the committees called for Lipad's "expulsion from the ranks of the revolution" and for its members to be punished. Soumane Toure, who had often criticised the regime and said there had been an attempt to kill him, was dismissed from the civil service on August 24.

In the August 31 government reshuffle, all the Lipad ministers — except Water Minister Michel Tapsoba, who retained his post — were removed and sent to oversee construction of housing to mark "year two of the revolution." Since then, the party has been relatively quiet.

The reported arrests took place only a few hours after Capt Sankara's deputy, Capt Blaise Campaore, returned Friday from visits to the Soviet Union and North Korea, and announced that Capt Sankara would visit both countries later this year.

SIDWAYA Editorial Criticizes USSR Aid Policy

AB271315 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1040 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 27 Oct (AFP/AZAP) — The Burkinabe official daily newspaper, *SIDWAYA*, on Thursday criticized the

USSR and its aid policy, without naming it, in an editorial entitled "The Proletarian Spirit."

"No matter how often we sing the Internationale," the paper writes, "the policy of 'nothing for nothing' always gets the upper hand in every field." "If Lenin were still alive, he would have come to our aid in Oudalan or Seno (two provinces of the extreme north Sahel part of Burkina Faso where drought, famine and cholera are raging)," *SIDWAYA* continues.

"If Lenin still lived," it continues, "he would have sent us tractors for the Sourou (a plane along one of the tributaries of the Volta River developed by Burkina Faso) and then combine-harvesters, and he would have sent us engineers for the Bagre and Kompienga dams along with agronomists to develop our farms." The newspaper adds: "We should therefore rely on our own strength, because to rely on a 'big brother' or big brothers of similar ideological affinity nowadays no longer constitutes a guarantee."

"Under these circumstances," *SIDWAYA* concludes, "we are taking our own route, and on the way we will find small sincere friends of similar ideological affinity in order to courageously confront the wolves that lay along the route. And as for Lenin, he would have proved us right."

GHANA

Egyptian Envoy Delivers Ghali Message, Comments

AB261730 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Excerpt] A special envoy of the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Mahmud Qasim, has left Accra for home after delivering a special message from Dr Butrus Ghali to the secretary for foreign affairs.

The envoy told newsmen before departure that Ghana and Egypt have resolved to make the forthcoming OAU summit in Addis Ababa a reality. This is because the failure of the summit will spell the doom of the organization. Mr Qasim said the OAU as a pan-Africanist organization should be preserved by all member states.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Portuguese Minister da Silva To Visit 19 Nov

AB271200 Paris AFP in French 0918 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Bissau, 27 Oct (AFP) — Gaspar da Silva, Portuguese secretary of state for cooperation, will begin an offical visit to Guinea-Bissau from 19 to 26 November 1984, it was learned from official sources in Bissau.

He will hold talks with Guinea-Bissau authorities on cooperation between the two countries and the agenda of the next Portugal-Guinea-Bissau joint cooperation commission meeting scheduled to take place in December in Bissau.

NIGERIA

Gambari on Moroccan Threat To Pull Out of OAU

AB271133 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Nigeria has described as unfortunate the threat by Morocco to pull out of the OAU if the SDAR is allowed to attend the next OAU summit meeting in Addis Ababa. The external affairs minister, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, in an interview with a Voice of Nigeria correspondent in Lagos yesterday, advised Morocco to attend the meeting to find a solution to the problem. He, however, advised Morocco to accept any collective decision of the OAU to resolve the Western Saharan issue.

Meanwhile Dr Gambari leaves Lagos for Kano today to assess the progress made in the withdrawal of foreign troops from Chad. During his visit, the external affairs minister will hold talks with officials of countries observing the troop withdrawal.

Delegation Leaves for Geneva OPEC Meeting

AB271323 Lagos NAN in English 1305 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Lagos, Oct. 27 (NAN) — A delegation led by the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, left Lagos yesterday for Geneva to attend the emergency meeting of OPEC ministers scheduled for Monday. The delegation is made up of NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Company] managing director, Chief Festus Marinho, the head of crude marketing, Mr Daniel Akan, the manager of research department, Mr Michael Olorunfemi, and the public affairs manager, Mr Alex Nwokedi.

In an interview with the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) before his departure, Prof David-West said, "I am going to Geneva with Nigeria foremost in my mind. I will not compromise Nigeria's interest in Geneva." He said that recent events in the oil market were politically motivated and that "this season should have been a good one. What has happened defies not rationally." [sentence as received]

Asked if Nigeria would reverse its decision to cut its oil price, Prof David-west said, "We reacted to an existing situation. The whole situation is dynamic. If the scenario changes, we shall be stupid to remain static."

The minister hinted that arrangements were being made for a meeting between him and the Norwegian Oil Minister Mr Kaare Kristiansen. "I am impressed with the feelers sent out by the Norwegians on the proposed meeting and I look forward to meeting my Norwegian counterpart," he said.

NAN reports that the meeting will be the first contact between the two ministers whose countries produce similar blends of crude. Norway's price cut of 1.5 U.S. dollar per barrel was followed by price cuts of 1.35 U.S. dollar and 2 U.S. dollar per barrel by Britain and Nigeria respectively, who together produce the light blend of crude oil. Norway and Britain are non-members of OPEC.

Decree Expected To Curb 'Religious Excesses'
AB280900 Lagos NAN in English 1611 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Kuru (Plateau), Oct 27, (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, said in Kuru near Jos today, that a decree would soon be promulgated to curb religious excesses in the country.

Brig Idiagbon said at the sixth passing out ceremony of the Nigerian Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies that the Federal Government was considering the reports of the judicial panels of inquiry into past religious disturbances and other studies commissioned on the issue.

He said that the country was a secular state and efforts must be made to ensure that organised religions did not play a divisive role in its body politic.

The chief of staff said that the goals of peaceful co-existence, national integration, security of life and property as well as public safety could not be achieved without appropriate legislation. Brig Idiagbon said that no decree promulgated by the present administration was inappropriate in the present circumstances.

He further said that Nigeria did not need an ideology at this stage but "unity and stability, law and order, public accountability, integrity, discipline and self-sufficiency in food production." He called on all Nigerians to regard the present period as one of war for economic, social and political survival.

Army Formulates Security Contingency Plan
AB271320 Lagos NAN in English 1301 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Ibadan, Oct 27 (NAN) — The Nigerian Army has formulated a contingency plan to check incursions and safeguard the nation's territorial integrity, the chief of Army Staff, Maj Gen Ibrahim Babangida, disclosed in Ibadan yesterday.

Addressing the closing session of a five-day training course for officers of the 2 mechanised division, Maj Gen Babangida said that the plan would be formally launched during the forthcoming chief of Army Staff's conference. Details of the contingency plan were not given, but the chief of Army Staff said that the "respective and collective responsibilities" of participants would be enlisted when the plan was due for implementation. He however, warned that there would be no room for mediocrity, and have deterimental effect on those concerned." [sentence as received] "You are therefore advised to gird your loins and be prepared for the task ahead to build an a army worthy to be proud of," he said.

He said that a research and development cell was being established at the Ministry of Defence to look into the nation's military equipment and weapons development. "This cell will work closely with the Defence Industries Corporation in Kaduna which is undergoing re-organisation in readiness for added responsibilities and greater expectations in future," Maj Gen Babangida disclosed.

The course, which was declared open on Monday by the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, was attended by senior army officers and some university lecturers.

NIGERIAN VOICE Comments on Radio Station Closures
AB271430 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The *NIGERIAN VOICE* comments on the closure of some of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria's [FRCN] radio stations. The paper, in accepting the reason advanced by the Federal Government for the closure, observes that the chief of staff did not make any official statement on the fate of the displaced staff of the FRCN.

The *VOICE* urges the committee on rationalization of radio and television broadcasting to examine the issue. The paper in addition appeals to the Federal Goverment to assist some state radio stations.

ANGOLA

Armed Forces Kill 77 UNITA 'Bandits'

MB261522 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The Angolan Armed Forces killed 77 UNITA bandits in Benguela, Bie, and Huambo provinces between 6 and 7 October, according to a military source in Luanda. During the operations, two bandits and various types of war equipment were captured, and 47 members of the public were released.

FNLA Claims 22 Cubans, 34 Angolans Killed

PA271732 Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Lisbon, 27 Oct (AFP) — A communique issued today by the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), which is opposed to the Luanda regime, reported that 10 Cuban and 34 Angolan soldiers were killed last September in fighting with FNLA forces. The fighting occurred in four provinces of northern Angola and the guerrillas sustained 6 dead and 27 wounded, the FNLA stated in a communique sent to AFP in Lisbon today.

The movement, led by Holden Roberto, announced that the Cuban victims included an officer, Lieutenant Zacarias Lopez, born in Barbados, Cuba. According to the communique, Lopez led a detachment that fell in an FNLA ambush near Nica in Luanda province. The other actions took place in the provinces of northern Cuanza, Zaire, and Uige. The FNLA seized 42 automatic weapons, 3 mortars, and a large amount of ammunition.

BOTSWANA

BDF Commander Announces RSA Boat Incident

MB261614 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The acting commander of the Botswana Defense Force [BDF], Brigadier Ian Khama, has announced that at 1220 yesterday afternoon two South African military boats armed with heavy machine guns were fired at by members of the BDF after they had entered Botswana territory. Brig Khama said in a press release today that the two boats were traveling along a channel of the main Chobe River, which forms the international boundary. It was along this channel that the boats were seen first traveling westward and later returned eastward to meet upward the main river. Then members of the BDF opened fire. However, the release does not state whether there were any casualties.

President's Secretary on Incident

MB261448 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1343 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Pretoria, Oct 25, SAPA — Three South African Navy Marines, injured yesterday when Botswana soldiers fired on their patrol boat on the Chobe River, were inside on the Botswana side of the border and were only shot at with rifles by a small patrol of about four men, Botswana authorities said today.

The boat had entered a sidestream of the Chobe River inside Botswana. A heavy machinegun was definitely not used as claimed by the South African Defence Force, Mr L.M. Mpotokane, administrative secretary in President Quett Masire's office, said from Gaborone.

The SADF said yesterday's incident occurred when "elements of the Botswana Defence Force" fired on one of its patrol boats with a heavy machinegun while it was on a routine patrol on the SWA/Namibia side of the border. Damage to the boat was "minimal" and the three marines had been treated for slight injures at the Mpacha Sick Bay in the Caprivi Strip.

Mr Mpotokane said the shooting took place along the Chobe National Park west of the town of Kasane.

The South Africans had not returned fire, speeding away in their boat as soon as the BDF soldiers shot at them. The SADF said earlier today no further details would be released as the matter was now in the hands of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The minister, Mr Pik Botha, said a few hours after the shooting he had already contacted the Botswana Government and that urgent attention would be paid to the matter.

Today a spokesman for Mr Botha said in Pretoria the two governments had agreed to an on-the-spot investigation of the shooting and that arrangements were already being made. No immediate comment on Botswana's claim the patrol boat was outside SWA/Namibia territory could be obtained.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Addresses Rally in Mafeteng District

MB280548 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that the new Lesotho International Airport at (Thotamoobi) is one of the three major Lesotho government projects he is particularly anxious to see completed. Speaking at Qalabane, in the Mafeteng District, yesterday, Dr Jonathan said that the new airport will provide an air bridge between Lesotho and other countries.

The second project, Dr Jonathan said, is the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, which will provide irrigation for Basotho fields, generate hydroelectricity for the country's energy needs, and enable Lesotho to earn a lot of revenue from her sale of water to South Africa. The prime minister said the last project is the Food Self-Sufficiency Program, which he said was already being boosted with financial assistance from friendly countries. He said as soon as the Highlands Water Project comes into operation, poverty in Lesotho will be a thing of the past, and that all water-related problems will be eliminated.

Dr Jonathan said the face of Mafeteng has changed tremen-

dously since Lesotho's independence 18 years ago. He said this was due to the efforts of the government of the Basotho National Party [BNP] to improve the welfare of the Mafeteng people. Dr Jonathan said he was therefore proud to present developments in the district as a showpiece, and on that basis to solicit for the support and vote for the BNP in the Mafeteng District.

He thus urged the people of the district to vote for the BNP in the coming elections on the basis of what he, as the head of the BNP government, has done for them. He urged the Mafeteng people to vote for a party which has done something for them and avoid the devisive inclinations of opposition parties, which are motivated by jealousy for the record of the BNP. The prime minister urged the people to choose their representatives in the coming elections on the basis of their capabilities and ability to do work, and not on the grounds of nepotism.

Dr Jonathan said the Dag Hammaskjold Award, awarded to him in the field of diplomacy, rightly belongs to the Basotho people who acquired this enviable legacy from the Mosotho diplomat, King Moshoeshoe I. He said this attribute, particularly in his dealings with the South Africans. [sentence as heard] They have now shifted from their former positions, including pressuring us to sign a nonaggression treaty with them, he added.

In conclusion, the prime minister appealed for unity among Basotho, and especially from his political opponents, for the sake of progress and welfare of the Basotho. He said he long advocated this policy of reconciliation and peace, but people like Mr Mokhehle refused to accept it. He then asked Mr Ramoreboli and Mr Mofeli: Who failed to carry out their responsibilities to the nation? The prime minister asked all Basotho to band together and (?spite) the face of the enemy, which is always at the ready to destroy us.

The prime minister was also shown one of the hand water pumps erected in Qalabane with the assistance from the World Bank and the UNDP [UN Development Program]. The total cost of the project in three villages in the Qalabane area is 32,000 maluti.

At the rally there was also the minister of works, the Honorable Mr Lekhooana Jonathan, who is also acting minister of cooperatives and rural development; the minister of transport and communications, the Honorable Dr K.T. Maphathe; the principal chief of the Mafeteng district; and thousands of Basotho.

MADAGASCAR

Congo Minister Discusses OAU With Ratsiraka

MB290636 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] On the eve of the next OAU summit, several African capitals are the center of intense diplomatic activity. Yesterday afternoon, Mr Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madadascar, has received Rodolphe Adada, Congolese minister of mines and energy, who has brought a message from Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese head of state. President Ratsiraka greeted Mr Adada in the following manner:

[Begin Ratsiraka recording] I am pleased to receive my Congolese friend, and I view the visit of President Nguesso's envoy as one which we rejoice over. Furthermore, this visit occurred some days before the OAU summit. This visit opens new forums for the exchange of mutual points of view, particularly on the crucial meeting of our OAU organization. I also wish you a good stay in our country, and I want you to convey to my friend, President Sassou Nguesso, the assurance of my highest consideration. [end recording]

Mr Rodolphe Adada replied. [Begin Adada recording] Mr President, it is a great pleasure for me to be the bearer of the message from President Sassou Nguesso to Your Excellency. This shows the excellent relations existing between our countries, and particularly between yourself and President Sassou Nguesso. This trip is aimed at the development of the cooperation ties between our countries. President Nguesso and I have evaluated, discussed, and implemented this cooperation. I am very pleased to be on Malagasy soil for the first time, in a country that I always wanted to know. I have gotten acquainted with many Malagasy friends whom I have met on this trip, and I am very happy to be here. [end recording].

The Malagasy head of state was accompanied by his aides. Also present were water resources, mining, and energy techicians. The Congolese delegation was received at Ivato Airport by ministers Tantely Andrianarivo and Jean-Jacques Seraphin.

MALAWI

Joint Communique Issued on Machel's Visit

MB261723 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Joint Mozambique-Malawi communique issued in Blantyre on 23 October on the occasion of Mozambique President Samora Machel's visit to the Republic of Malawi]

[Text] 1. At the invitation of His Excellency Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, life president of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, made an official visit to the Republic of Malawi from 19 to 23 October. His excellency the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique was accompanied by high-ranking officials of the Mozambican Government.

2. His Excellency Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and his delegation were warmly and enthusiastically welcomed at Chileka airport, Blantyre, by his excellency the life president of the Republic of Malawi; Mama (Tamanda) Kadzamira; high-ranking party and government officials; members of the diplomatic corps; and thousands of Malawians. Members of Malawi Women's League entertained the distinguished visitor with traditional dances, thus expressing the existing links of cooperation and good neighborliness between the two countries.

3. During his stay in the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, toured a number of social and eco-

nomic sites, including the Lilongwe Development Division, Maldeco Fisheries, David Whitehead Textile Factory in (Musano), Kamuzu Academy, and the national headquarters of the Malawi Congress Party. At those sites the distinguished visitor was able to see and assess the level of development attained by the fraternal people of Malawi since their independence.

4. During the talks the two leaders noted with great satisfaction the continuous growth of relations between their two countries, particularly the accreditation of embassies in both countries. They assessed other forms of strengthening and developing cooperation between the two countries based on the principle of mutual advantage. The talks between the two presidents culminated with the signing of the general cooperation agreement. During the state visit, accords were signed in the following areas: foreign trade, energy, civil aviation, and railroads.

5. The president of the People's Republic of Mozambique informed the life president of the Republic of Malawi of the total unconditional involvement of the Mozambican people in implementing the directives of the fourth Frelimo Party congress, the fundamental guidelines of which are to defend the fatherland, overcome underdevelopment, and build socialism. Accordingly, President Samora Moises Machel underlined the victories that have been achieved in the struggle against the armed bandits and famine. He also stressed the efforts made by the People's Republic of Mozambique aimed at fulfilling the policy of peace that has always guided the Mozambican people since the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation.

6. His Excellency Ngwazi Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, life president of the Republic of Malawi, stressed the importance of agriculture not only as a determinant factor in the country's general economic development but also to ensure food self-sufficiency. Accordingly, the life president expressed concern about the continuous food shortage in Africa and the negative effects that such a situation has on economic development and the standard of living.

7. His excellency the life president of the Republic of Malawi condemned armed banditry in the People's Republic of Mozambique, which is harmful to the economies of both countries. The two leaders expressed their commitment and determination to eliminate armed banditry in any form in order to enable the two peoples to concentrate their efforts on developing their respective countries.

8. His excellency the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique reaffirmed his condemnation of any form of banditry launched from the territory of the People's Republic of Mozambique against the Republic of Malawi.

9. The two leaders recalled their meeting in the city of Harare on the occasion of the first summit of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] in 1982. They reaffirmed their commitment toward the principles of the SADCC, the fulfillment of which will be promoted by the bilateral relations resulting from the state visit made by His Excellency President Samora Machel to the Republic of Malawi.

10. With regard to the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state appealed for the immediate implementation of the UN Resolution 435 on the self-determination and independence of the people of Namibia. The two leaders expressed their solidarity with the Angolan people in the preservation of their sovereignty.

11. The two heads of state condemned apartheid in South Africa and appealed for the immediate end of this system.

12. The two leaders, while assessing the prevailing situation in the OAU, stressed the vital importance of this organization as a dynamic instrument in the struggle for the political and economic emancipation of the peoples of Africa. They appealed to all states to redouble efforts aimed at prevserving African unity.

13. The two heads of state took the opportunity of this historic visit to discuss present issues in international relations. They expressed their concern for the growing deterioration of the international economic order, which has negative effects on the economies of the two countries. They noted that all initiatives to promote regional and international cooperation are an important contribution for the establishment of a new international economic order, (?while) attributing greater importance to the development of bilateral cooperation.

They reaffirmed their adherence to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the principles and declaration of the countries of the nonaligned movement, and the OAU Charter. They stressed the importance of these principles for international security and peace.

14. His Excellency Marshal Samora Moises Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, expressed to His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the party, people and government of the Republic of Malawi his heartfelt gratitude for the warm and fraternal welcome and great hospitality that he and his delegation received, which is a characteristic of the African tradition. His Excellency President Samora Moises Machel expressed profound emotion in view of the spontaneous manifestation of love and respect by the people of Malawi toward the Mozambican people.

15. The Mozambican leader thanked his excellency the life president for the invitation he made to visit the Republic of Malawi. Moreover, His Excellency President Samora Machel invited the Life President Ngwazi Dr Hasting Kamuzu Banda and Mama (Tamanda) Kadzamira to visit the People's Republic of Mozambique. His excellency the life president of the Republic of Malawi accepted the invitation with great satisfaction. The dates will be established through diplomatic channels.

MAURITIUS

Further on Official Visit by India's Singh

Supports Diego Garcia Claim

BK261625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has reiterated India's continued support to the Mauritian demand to regain sovereignty

over Chagos archipelago, which includes Diego Garcia. In a statement broadcast over the Mauritius radio this evening, he said in the geographical sense India is part of the Indian Ocean community. Of late, this ocean has become a theater of great power rivalry, which is threating to destabilize the region. It is India's desire that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace.

On Indo-Mauritius relations, the president said the two countries share common ideals and beliefs. Politically, both have chosen the path of nonalignment as a cardinal principle of foreign policy. Besides, the two countries are seriously engaged in nation building and in raising the standard of living of their people. The president said India is happy to cooperate with Mauritius in a variety of economic projects. Indo-Mauritian cooperation in oceanography is fast expanding.

Giani Zail Singh disclosed that one of Mauritian scientists, Dr (Bhuja Dhar), will join the next Indian expedition to Antarctica later this year. India has achieved tremendous progress in various fields, including nuclear energy, space, ocean development, and electronics, and she is prepared to assist Mauritius in any area. The president thanked the governor general, Sir Seewosagar Ramgoolam, and the people of Mauritius for their warmth and love during his visit. Tomorrow the president will leave for Aden on a 2-day state visit to South Yemen.

Singh Concludes Visit

BK271411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The president [Giani Zail Singh] was given a touching farewell when he left Port Louis after a 5-day state visit to Mauritius. Governor General Sir Seewasagar Ramgoolam, the prime minister, Mr Aneerood Jugnauth, and a large number of people were at the airport to see him off.

MOZAMBIQUE

Talks With Visiting DPRK Delegation Begin

MB261324 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Mozambique and the DPRK today began talks in Maputo. The Korean delegation is headed by Vice President Yi Chong-ok, who arrived in Maputo yesterday, while the Mozambican side is led by Minister in the Presidency Armando Guebuza, who is a member of the Frelimo Political Bureau. During his 5-day official visit, Mr Yi will also visit Sofala and Gaza provinces and is due to meet President Samora Machel this afternoon.

Chissano Meets With Visiting Soviet Group

MB270937 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Joaquim Chissano received in Maputo yesterday the Soviet Union delegation led by (Viktor Glyunt), deputy chairman of the presidium of the (?Lithuanian) Supreme Soviet. The meeting was attended by the soviet ambassador in Mozambique, the secretary general of the Mozambican Association of Friendship and Solidarity with the Peoples [AMASP], and the cultural attache of the USSR embassy. The delegation of the Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, (?LISSR), has been in our country at the invitation of AMASP.

Renamo Not Present at Last Round of Peace Talks

MB271153 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Mozambique and South Africa have held another round of talks in Pretoria on the ending of banditry in Mozambique. The Mozambican National Resistance bandits were not represented at the meeting, which took place yesterday.

The Mozambican delegation was headed by the minister for economic affairs in the presidency, Jacinto Veloso, while the South African side was led by Foreign Minister Roelof Botha. Included in the Mozambican delegation were the security minister, Sergio Vieira; Deputy Interior Minister Teodato Hunguana; Air Force Commander Antonio Hama Thai; and President Samora Machel's personal assistant, Fernando Honwana.

Accompanying Mr Botha on the South African side were the defense minister, Magnus Malan; Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel; and the head of military intelligence, General Van der Westhuizen. No details of the talks have been released, but the Mozambican delegation returned to Maputo last night.

SWAPO Spokesman in Harare Cites RSA Deceptions

MB261044 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1021 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Harare, Oct 25, SAPA — South African Army bands dressed in SWAPO combat gear had been attacking people and destroying property in the northern rural areas of SWA/Namibia since April, SWAPO's chief representative in Zimbabwe, Mr Ndeutapo Amagulu, claimed in an interview published in Harare today. Mr Amagulu said several victims were staunch supporters of SWAPO. He alleged that a young girl was raped by six soldiers at Sayema district in Okavango.

Mr Amagulu claimed that members of the "fearsome crack unit" called "Koekvoet," had committed most of the crimes in SWA/Namibia, and had planted an explosive device outside a maternity ward of a Lutheran mission hospital near Ondangwa. The idea was to kill all the patients and blame SWAPO for that, but the device was defused, he said. He also claimed that Pretoria had announced plans to close down three important railway lines in SWA/Namibia so that it remained dependent on South Africa long after independence. South Africa, he said, also planned to remove all rail tracks between Meetmanshoop and Luderitz Bay, as well as the Gobabis Railway line.

"South Africa is seeking to eliminate this alternative trade route for Namibia in advance of our independence for fear that our neighbor, Botswana, could easily join its Trans-Kalahari Rail-

way to an Atlantic outlet through Namibia," he added. "We see this as a systematic policy by South Africa to have Namibia on its infrastructural strings, which the apartheid regime can pull to limit our country's freedom of action and to restrict its economic progress," Mr Amagulu said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pretoria Declines Comment on Cape Verde Talks

MB281150 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] Reports from Washington say that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, is to meet the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, on the Cape Verde Islands this week for more talks on the Angolan situation. The meeting follows the talks between President Jose [Eduardo] dos Santos of Angola and another senior American government official, Mr Frank Wisner, in Luanda last week. In Pretoria, a spokesman for the department of foreign affairs has declined to comment on the reports.

Agreement Reached With Botswana on Shooting Probe

MB261317 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has announced in Pretoria that South Africa and Botswana have agreed to launch an on-the-spot investigation into the shooting incident at the Chobe River on the border between Caprivi and Botswana.

Three South African soldiers were lightly wounded when shots were fired at a patrol boat. A Defense Force spokesman said the men were in a satisfactory condition. They are being treated in the sick bay of the (Mpacha) Military Base in the Caprivi. The boat was not seriously damaged and the men's families have been informed of the incident.

Our military correspondent reports that the three Navy marines were carrying out a routine patrol when the shots were fired at them. The Defense Forces spokesman said there would be no further comment on the matter.

Talks Held With Mozambique on Cease-fire

MB270554 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] Delegates from South Africa and Mozambique have held further talks in Pretoria on the implementation of the declaration of Pretoria, which provides for a cease-fire between Mozambican Government forces and forces of the Mozambican National Resistance [Renamo] movement in Mozambique. The South African delegation was headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, assisted by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan. The Mozambican minister of economic affairs in the office of the president, General Veloso, led his country's delegation.

Botha, Buthelezi Hold Talks on Border Issue

MB261736 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, had talks in Pretoria this afternoon. In a brief statement issued after the talks, Mr Botha said the border issue had been discussed. The minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, was also present at the talks, and more meetings are envisaged.

Law Minister Reconsiders Cases of Some ANC

MB281325 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] South Africa's minister of law and order is reconsidering the cases of ANC leaders jailed for life in the 1960's. In a magazine interview, Louis le Grange says some of those sentenced 20 years ago can now be regarded as spent forces and could be released because of their advanced age.

He singled out Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbheki as two who might qualify on these grounds, but he makes it clear that Nelson Mandela is viewed in a different light. Le Grange describes Mandela as a man of about 64 who enjoys good health and is regarded by many South African blacks as their leader. Le Grange says these factors put him in a different category from the elderly and infirm prisoners.

Meetings of 7 Organizations in Port Elizabeth Banned

MB270717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The acting chief magistrate of Port Elizabeth, Mr D.F.M. (Smith), has imposed a ban in terms of the Internal Security Act on all meetings of seven organizations in the Port Elizabeth district. The ban will run from 0800 this morning until 0800 on Monday morning. The organizations affected by the ban are the United Democratic Front, the Motor Assemblers and Component Workers Union of South Africa, the Congress of South African Students, the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organization, the General Workers Union of South Africa, and the Port Elizabeth Women's Organization.

De Klerk Speaks Out Against 'Disinvestment'

MB271040 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The minister of home affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, has appealed to South Africa's trading partners to take a strong stance against disinvestment and boycott in South Africa. Addressing the South African-German Chamber of Trade and Industry during its 32d anniversary celebrations in Johannesburg, Mr de Klerk said that foreign investment in South Africa was one of the foundation stones of advancements of the quality of life of local black communities.

Mr de Klerk said South Africa and West Germany had a long

history of friendly and firm economic ties. However, these ties, which also existed between South Africa and other countries, were being singled out for pressure from radical groups aimed at the isolation of South Africa and disinvestment and boycott in the country. Mr de Klerk asked whether the time had not come for private enterprise to launch a coordinated counterattack against these radical elements.

Conservative Congress Takes 'Ultra-Right' Stance

MB290536 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 28 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] The Conservative Party's drift to the ultra-right — most noticeable since beginning pact talks with the HNP — was confirmed at the party's national congress yesterday. But, at the same time,the party is showing signs of gearing itself for a re-launch after the confusing political limbo of the post-referndum period.

The national congress in Kimberely yesterday accepted a wide range of resolutions, which makes party philosophy almost indistinguishable from that of the Herstigte Nasional Party. In discussions and resolutions, the 350 delegates offered vehement opposition to the new constitution and every move made by government in recent months to soften some aspects of rigid apartheid.

At the same time, the far right party made fiery attacks against the government's refusal to send the Coventry Four to face trial; CP chief spokesman on foreign affairs Tom Langley said the government action had ashamed him as a South African and he tendered apologies to the international community for Pretoria's actions. On the domestic front, the most bitter accusations remained focused on alleged educational integration and government indifference to Indian and Colored occupation in areas such as Hillbrow.

Among the major resolutions accepted were: the acceptance of separate Coloured and Indian homelands — now a central theme of CP policy; rejection of any moves to scrap the Mixed Marriages Act or sex laws — Dr Andries Treurnicht, re-elected leader of the CP, claimed the government had broken its word that the principles of the laws would not be touched; criticised South Africa's regional peace initiative, questioned the success of the Nkomati and Pretoria agreements, and warned against "betrayal" of anti-communist forces in Namibia and Mozambique.

In his keynote speech, a confident Dr Treurnicht claimed there was a growing moral resistance among whites to the National Party and its coalition administration and said many people who had voted "yes" in the referendum were now bitterly regretting it.

He claimed the allies of the government — meaning the Labour and National Peoples Party — were the apostles of black power. Dr Treurnicht listed what he called a "flater (faux pas) register" committed by the government in recent months, which ran the gamut from the Coventry Four to the refusal to allow a referendum on the constitution for coloureds and Indians. A major part of the "register" consisted of angry criticisms of the government's handling of the economy.

Also at the congress yesterday, the CP unveiled plans for a major re-launch of an ailing party newspaper, *DIE PATRIOT*. The party is aiming for a r1-million fund to boost the paper and turn it eventually into a national daily. The CP is to make another attempt to tackle the SABC over its biased political coverage — even to the point of threatening to withhold license fees.

SWAZILAND

Prime Minister Addresses Police Graduates

MB261748 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, said peace and prosperity can only be maintained better in an atmosphere of law and order, which, he said, is the greatest responsibility of each and every police officer. Speaking at Matsapa police college during a passing-out parade, the prime minister said: public confidence in the police cannot be overstressed since the safety of any society is highly dependent on the effective police office and a good atmosphere of mutual respect.

Prince Bhekimpi said the police should have a special relationship to the public, whereupon appointment every police officer assumed the role of being a guardian of law and order on behalf of the community. The prime minister said there was a greater need, therefore, that a police officer must always know that he is entrusted with greater powers, but though it may be, he is expected by the citizens to use such powers with tact, discretion, firmness, and fairness.

Talking to the new recruits, the prime minister reminded them that it was their primary task as police officers to uphold the rule of law in Swaziland. Adding that, as officers of the law they must be guided at all times by the noble principle of justice and regard all people equal in the eyes of the law. Prince Bhekimpi reminded them that they were unconditionally expected to remain at all times loyal to their king and country, not, of course, excluding her majesty's government. The ceremony was attended by, among others, members of the Supreme Council of State, members of the royal family, Cabinet ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Defense Minister Returns From Zambia Celebrations

MB261739 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The minister for defense and youth, Brigadier Fonono Dube, is back home from Zambia, where he represented her majesty the queen regent during the 20th anniversary of Zambia's independence and the 60th birthday of that country's president, Kenneth Kaunda. The minister left the country on Monday. The celebration was held in Zambia on 24 October.

Foreign Exchange Proble[illegible] Halt Min[illegible]tering

MB271309 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 27 Oct 84

[Text] The government has suspended the bartering of minerals for any other goods from foreign countries with immediate effect due to foreign exchange problems. This decision is reflected in a barter protocol signed with Romania recently, which excludes Zambian minerals from a list of commodities which the country would exchange on a barter basis.

Commerce and Industry Minister Leanard Subulwu, who led the Zambian delegation to the Zambia-Romania Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation meeting in Bucharest, said today that the new barter protocol will allow some of the [words indistinct] commodities which are in plentiful supply, like [words indistinct] cotton, and beef, to Romania. Mr Subulwu said, according to the new protocol, which will last for a year, Romania will export to Zambia industrial chemicals, yarns for textiles, the [words indistinct], and some raw materials needed by Zambian manufacturers.

Kaunda Urges More Rwanda Party, Government Links

MB281328 Lusaka Domesti[illegible] Service in English
0700 GMT 28 Oct 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has called for more exchange visits between party and government officials of Zambia and Rwanda. Speaking at State House last night when Rwandan Minister of Justice Jean Mari Vianney Mugema[illegible] called on him, the president said the heads of state of the two countries had already exchanged state visits. What was now required were visits of a serious nature from both parties and governments.

Dr Kaunda said he was very grateful for the wonderful way Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana responded to Zambia's invitation to the just ended tripartite celebrations. He said the bilateral relations between Kigali and Lusaka were growing from strength to strength, and both countries were members of the OAU and the Preferential Trade Area.

The visiting minister said the Rwandan leadership greatly respected the Zambia-Rwanda permanent commission, and would like to see the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in every field.

ZIMBABWE

Mashonaland Provincial Elections Postponed

MB260636 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The ZANU Mashonaland Central Provincial elections, which were to be held tomorrow, have been postponed to 17 November. In a statement yesterday, the outgoing publicity and